

A TRUE
DESCRIPTION
OF THE LAVVES,
IVSTICE, AND EQVI-
TY OF A COMPTER, THE
manner of sitting in Counsell of the
twelve Eldest Prisoners.

With a
Character of a Iayle and Iaylor, and
the dispositions of such Officers as liue in it :
The Nature of a Constable : as also the abuses, of-
fered by Beadles and Watchmen, that vnderstand not
their office.

And also
*A Description of a Sergeant his nature, slights, and
properties, and in what fashions they oftentimes
apparell themselves.*
*Together with a portraicture of our Moderne-spent Gal-
lants, and their trickes to catch young heires with their
lewd and vicious course of life.*

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THE COMPTERS COMMON-WEALTH.

OR
A voyage made to an infernall
Iland, long since discovered by many
Captaines, Sea-faring-men,
Gentle-men, Marchants,
and osher Tradesmen.

The Penner
WILLIAM FENNOR

His
Majesties Seruant.

CHAP. I.

Containing, 1. The manner of my arrest. 2. The descrip-
tion of a brace of Sergeants. 3. Their counsaile to me,
4. My comming into prison. 5. The Description of a
Iaylor. 6. And my entertainment into the Masterside.



Walking (not long since) in an euening
through the city, when the Heauens
were muffled vp in clowdes, as ma-
ny of our moderne Gallants faces
are in their cloakes, and being in a
fixt meditation with my selfe, a Tri-
nobantine Burger (comming in haste), ranne full but
at me with his head, so that he had nigh goar'd me into
the kennell, (I tooke him to be some compleat harnes-

sed benchbeleagerer, for hee had a wrought night-cap on his head to keepe the broath of his wit warme, fatten sleeues, a taffata ierkin to couer his canuasse backe; and a paire of veluet hose.) I, for his vnexpected curtesie, not forgetting to giue him the good time of the night, vp with my sword scabbard and all, and tooke him a sound knock o'rethwart the pate, that if the most head-strongst oxe that euer was sacrificed in *Saint Nicholas Shambles*, had receiued but halfe such a blow, it would haue staggered him; but heelike a valiant and prouident Tradesman, bare it off with his *Sinciput* and shoulders and ranne away.

I (as glad I was rid of him as he of me) posted as fast to my lodging, as a releast prisoner (hey ho a prisoner) from the layle, for feare he should run to the Compter and enter an action against me; but hauing escap't the *Charybdis* of this danger, I instantly fell into the *Scylla* of a more deepe and dreadfull then the first, for as I was making homewards, a brace of Bandogs belonging to one of the Compters, most cowardly came snarling behind me, and fastened on my shoulder, giuing me this salutation. *Sir we arrest you in the Kings Maiesties name, and we charge you to obey vs.*

These *Rauens* had no sooner croak't out this ominous message, but I lookt as biancke as those that solde all their estate, and ventured it at a lottery and drew biancke, or an olde *Vsurer* when hee heares of a *Prinse feale*, or a copy-holder plow-holder when he is serued with a *Sub poena*; but all could not preuaile, I was forced to obey them for feare of further inconuenience, so rendred my weapon into their hands; and my body to the Lawes of my Soueraigne, telling them the thunder I so much feared, was now fallen on mine head. Yet the thought of my arrest did not so much affright me as the courtenances of those peuter buttend, shoulderclapping Catch-poles that seized on my body. The one
had

had a face ten times worse then those Jewes that are pictured in Arras-hangings whipping Christ, his blacke haire hung dangling about his eares like Elfelockes, that I cannot be perswaded, but some *Succubus* begot him on a Witch, his nose was precious, richly rubified, & shined brighter then any Summers snout in Lancashire. The other of these Pagans had a phisnomy much resembling the Sarazens head without Newgate, and a mouth as wide vaulted as that without Bishopsgate: I was in a great doubt whether he were an Englishman or no, for I was certified a Dane begot him on a Switzers wife; and to make him shew the more like himselfe, his ill-fauoured visage was almost eaten through with pock-holes, (the Grand I hope) so that halfe a parish of children might easily haue played at cherry-pit in his face.

The description of a brace of Sargants.

These *Furies* had no sooner fastened their sharpe flesh-hooks on my shoulders, but they (as their fashion is) began to exhort mee to patience, telling mee, I ought not to be incens'd against them, for they were but the Ministers and Executioners of the Law, and that the Mace which they held in their clutches, was put into theirs by the hand of Iustice, that they were both for the good of the Common-wealth, and the discharge of their owne consciences, sworne to execute their office though it were vpon their owne father, that I being so gracious in the Court, could not long be detained in the Compter, that after I had beene resident there but one quarter of a yeere (if it should bee my ill fate to stay there so long) I would not lose the rich experience I should learne there for ten times so much debt I was arrested for. And lastly, swore as they were Christians, they would doe me what kindnesse lay in their power, either perswading my Creditour to come to a reasonable composition, or prouide me Baile, the Cormorants tolde me true, for they swore as they were

Christians they would doe me good, but being contrary to them, playde the Iewes, and falsified their oathes with me, for I neuer saw them after I was mew'd vp in the Compter. But before I was matriculated in one of these city vniuersities, by perswasion they got mee into a Tauerne not farre from (the enchanted Castle) the Prison, and there milk't me out of all my money to stufte their paunches with wine and good cheere: but their guts and garbidge being full-gorg'd, they told me it was time to repaire to the Compter, for if the Sheriffe their master should be certified of their detaining a Prisoner so long after an arrest, it would bee a great preiudice to them, and small good to my selfe: so I discharging the reckoning, wishing them choak't, and all their fellow varlets, that euer after should taste of my bounty (when I began to sent their rogerie) came ouer with them, so bid them farewell and behang'd.

But heere is one serious point not to be slipt ouer, for the *Cerberus* that turned the key of the Compter-gate, no sooner saw those hell-guide, bringing me in, but he set the doore as wide open to receiue me, as Westminster Hall is in the terme-time to country Clients, which put me in minde of that odde olde verse in the Poet,

Noctes atq; dies pater atri ianua Ditis.

I no sooner was entred into this *Infernal Iland* (where many men lie winde-bound sometimes foure or five yeeres together) but a fellow (whom at first sight I tooke to bee a Gardiner, because hee had somewhat a reddish beard and turn'd vp withall) called mee to a booke (no Bible or Diuinity, but rather of Negromancy, for all the Prisoners called it the *Blacke-booke*) coming to it, hee demanded my name, I tolde him, and then hee ser'd downe as horses are in Smithfield at the Tole-booth. This ceremonie being ended, hee askt me whether I would go to the Master side, the Knights ward, or any other place of a cheaper rate; I answered the

the best, though it were the dearest, for I did hope to get my liberty before a weeke was expired : vpon this determination there was one call'd to shew me the way to my lodging, who vpon the first call made no delay, but instantly came wadling downe staires. Hee was a grosse fellow, one that had a fat body though a leane braine, a face of a sanguine complexion, and an heart correspondent to the same, hee had a morly beard cut round like a rubbing brush, so that if all the skinne of his body had beene like that of his face, it would haue serued excellent well when he had beene dead to make cloakebags of : This lump of mans flesh (that like a fore-man of a lary could speak nothing so well as guilt) conuayed me vpa paire of staires, and so to a doore; where another *Fury* like himselfe fate, telling me, that if I meant to haue entrancethere, I must pay my fees, or else I could haue no farther passage that way, a shilling was his demand, which hee would haue, or else I must returne the same way I came ; I (seeing nothing but a siluer key would open this locke) gaue him his fee, wishing the waight of that twelue pence in *Aqua fortis* or *Mercury water* in his neeke, but hauing shot this gulfe, my corpulent conductour brought mee through a little Gallery, which led vs to a spacious Roome, and then into a Hall hung round about with the story of the Prodigall childe (a very edifying peece of worke-man-ship for the guests of that place) being come into this vncouth and strange place, my guide (with a countenance as sowre as any mustard-maker in the City) bad mee welcome, and tolde mee that there was a garnish to be payd : But I that vnderstood the Hebrew, the Syriake or Caldean language as well as his speech, askt him what that was, hee tolde mee two shillings would discharge it, I mildly certified him, I was not at that vnhappy present so well furnisht, besides I was ignorant whether any such thing were due to him,

The description of one of the vnder-
iaylours.

or no; at this answer hee rouz'd himselfe vp like an angry mastiffe, and being in collar, in a currish manner barked out these words to me. Sir, if you meane to lie on this side, you must and shall pay mee my fees, or (though you be no Alderman) I will bee so bolde as to vncloake you. I seeing him so resolute, and my selfe loath to loath to lie without a bed, because it was late, put mine arme into my pocket, which was so soare with the Sargeants griping, that I had much adoe to pull two shillings out of it; that being discharged, like a base violl) he went grumbling vp staires with me, and brought me to my lodging, richly hung with cob-web-lawne. So hauing shewed me my bed, whereon he clapt a paire of sheetes, that neuer came nigh Holland by three hundred mile, left mee a peece of candle scarce so long as his nose, lockt vp the doore, bidde mee good-night, went downe gingling his keyes, and left mee to my repose.

CHAP. II.

1. *Mine acquaintance with my fellow-prisoners.*
2. *Mine entertainment at dinner time the next day.*
3. *The character of a prison.*
4. *The Keepers kindnesse to me while I had money.*
5. *Their unkindnesse to mee when I had none.*
6. *Lastly their transporting me from the Masters side to the Knights ward.*

BUt what with change of my lodging, and meditating of mine entertainment, I slept not at all, but like a true Male-content, made my brains the minutes to euery clocke I heard, betwixt whose seuerall sounds the watch of mine inuention beating vp my panting heart hammered forth a hundred strange cogitations: thus

thus lay I longing for day, at whose approach, I might descerne the manner of my new distastefull lodging, which lookt so confused, rasty and ominous, that euery object presented new greefe, and strucke mee into further consideration of this worse then wofull purgatory, wherein I lay plunged by the froward will of *Fate*, dreading the danger I was in, and doubting how long this vnwelcome affliction might continue. In the midst of my musing, my chamber-fellowes awak't, whom I coniectured to bee of the same fellowship of affliction that I my selfe was: I saluted them with a *Bon-iour*, they perceiuing me to be a stranger, gratified my good-morrow with a *Bien*, asking of me whether I came in vpon an arrest or a command; I answered, with a deepe sigh and sad voyce, faith Gentle-men I am arrested to my greefe, God help me, at which words I could scarce refraine from teares, which caused my kinde chamber-fellowes to pittie my present sorrowes, and apply some words of comfort to expell them. In the same chamber lay an Attourney: who beganneto bee more busie then the rest, who perceiuing I was apt to giue eare to any new conceited hope, slipt on his blacke suit (which was worne bare for want of brushing) and comming to my bed side, whispered in mine eare, and tolde mee if I would rise he could tell mee something for my good; these words posselt each part with more then haste to heare this vnexpected kindnes, so being with speed apparelled, down the staires posted I and my Attourney, who taking me by the hand, demanded of me whether I were in vpon action or execution, I answered, an action of 100. pound, to which he replied he would haue me out presently, and with an *Habeas Corpus* remooue my cause to the Kings Bench and so farewell. I (thinking the doores had beene blowen open already by his breath) stood in a maze, considering with my selfe whether he were mortall or no, yet marking that his crabbed

bed countenance accorded with his counsell, for which he greedily gaped for ten groates, I began to pause with my selfe, & askt him what the charge would amount to, he told me for 40. shillings he wold vndertake to set me free, I told him I would consider a little of it, & then he should heare my resolute: & so we transeended to our former lodging chamber, where we found all our associates vpon their legs, some buttoning, some trussing, others taking Tobacco, to expell noisome sauors, they all kindly saluted me, & so from complementing & talking, we fel to drinking (the only remedy to driue away melancholly, and bring strangers acquainted) thus we past away the morning while seruicetime, which being spent in deuotion, the table was couered and vp came our dinner, at which each man sate downe without respecting of persons, for he that first comes is first seated like those that come to see playes, or goe to dinner at an ordinary, but I (being the youngest prisoner as their fashion is) sat at the vpper end of the table, to which preferment by much entreaty, I was aduanc't, short grace serued for sharp stomacks, & so to't they fell without circumstance. But I seeing all their teeth laboring so hard, thought foule shame mine should stand idle, began to accompany my quicke shauers, but as I was about to put meat into my mouth, one with his mouth halfe full, mumbled out and ill runed speech of a garnish, the Vintners boy that waights for such purposes, was ready with a pottle of claret, who filling a boule brimme-full, set it on my trencher, and so I was entreated to drinke to all the society, and compelled to pay for it when I had done: these plagues diued deeper into my pockets then Graues-end searchers doe into shippes, to finde out vncustomed commodities. Thus hauing finisht our feast (and waiting for no banquet) we rose, every man disposing of himselfe as he pleased, onely my selfe guided by the euill Fate walkt into the fore-roome

fore-roome, where the fraternity of Keepers and other seruants of the house were feeding on the fragments that were reserved from our table, I with a common salutation bad much good do them, but when they had emptied their cramd iawes, told me there was a certaine garnish to bee payd, I now being too well acquainted with that language, tolde them plainly I would pay no more, to which they replied and sayd, that then I should haue my liberty no more, for all the rest of my fellow-prisoners had payd it, and except I would bee their imitators and come off roundly, I should bee barred of that priuiledge the rest of my associates had, I, loath to be pent vp like a Lyon in the Tower, and haue no more liberty then to looke through an iron grate, demanded the summe, they told me six-pence, to send for a quart of clarret wine, which was the last tellor that remained in my peacefull pockets, at last, flinging it to them, I walkt vp to my lodging againe, and thereby chance espied a standish and a sheet of vndefiled paper, which being fit for my purpose, I made bolde with, and in the midst of melancholly, writ this character of a prison.

It is a Fabricke built of the same stuffe, the Keepers of it are made of, stone and iron: It is an vnwholesome full-stuffed humorous body, which hath an Hole in the posteriors of it, whence it vents many stinking, noysome and vnsauoury smels, which is the onely cause there is such a perpetuall sicknesse and disease in it: It is a booke where an honest man may learne and read a lesson of bettering himselfe, and where a bad man may study to be ten times worse: it is a costliue creature, that surfets almost all the yeere long, yet very seldome doth purge it selfe; and when it doth it leaueth abundance of ill humours behinde; when *Epimetheus* opened *Pandora's* box, there did not more mischiefes and maladies flie out of it into the world, then there is in this cursed
C place,

place, for it hath more sicknesse predominating in it, then there are in twenty French Hospitals, or at the Bathe, in the spring or fall of the leafe; It is a Bankrupts banquetting house, where he sits feasting himselfe with dishes borrowed from other mens tables, without any honest determination to repay them againe: It is a Prodigals purgatory, and a sicknesse that many young Gentle-men, and Citizens sonnes and heires are incident to be troubled with, at the age of one and twenty or much thereabout, It is a dicing house, where much cheating is vsed, for there is little square dealing to be had there, yet a man may haue what baile hee will for his money.

This being finisht, I veiwed it ouer, but as I was reading of it, I was called downe to speake with a friend that came to visit me in my new transformation, and after some formall gossiping discourses, as *I am sorry to see you beere, How were you met withall, and what hard hap had you,* and such like) lent mee a brace of Angels, the sight of which two faire creatures, made me courageous, and a companion for the best, I then rouz'd my heart vp to a straine of mirth, which caus'd the Gentle-mē to delight in my cōpany, the keepers began to wax diligent, I could no sooner name a bottle of Ale, but it was ready to flie into my face, the Vintners boy was ready at mine elbow, that if I calld but for a quart of sacke or claret, would forget his errand by the way, and for his owne profit present me with a pottle. In this iouiall vaine I wasted my money and time, neuer desiring to deale with mine Attourney for my liberty, because I vnderstood by others, that it was onely a trick to worne mee out of my money. Many such supplies I had to vphold my mirth, but none to discharge my debts, which began to increase, for euery day brought in a new action, till the totall summe of my debts had drawen a head, & ioyn'd their forces in the *Paper-house*.
But

But at the end of the weeke when they vse to call for their reckoning (which is for diet and lodging) they willingly trusted mee, telling mee there was no such haste, thus I frolikt out three weeks on the Masterside, thinking my credit stood built on the firme rocke of their kindnesse, whereas indeede (as the sequell shall vnfolde) it was suncke in the quicksands of their cruelty. For hauing run my selfe into a moneths arrerages, my friends beganne to wax weary of supplying my wants, and the keepers (knowing of it) vnwilling to trust me any farther, thus both my friends and hopes shook hands with me, and bad me farewell; to bee briefe, the month being ended, my fat fellow (before mentioned) like a watch-man came with a bill in his hand, to make a priuy search in my purse, but finding it altogether vnprovided for his purpose, returned the bill to the book without any crosse language, vpon the view of these vn-satisfied figures, there arose a thunder-clap of conspiracie against mee, for my present transportation ouer from the Masterside to the Knights ward, but I that scorned to bee frighted with the first flash of false fire, defended my selfe with good words that night, and so went to bed, determining with my selfe (rather then be offensive to them which might more incense them against me) the next day to goe quietly ouer my selfe, and not to discredit my selfe so much, as to bee forced ouer by compulsion; so the next morning, as soone as I was ready, I tooke my leaue of all my fellowes on that side, and instantly went ouer, writing these few verses in a little peece of paper, and left them to the perusing of my kinde Comrades.

*To all my friends that heare this single story,
If you to try their kindnesse haue occasion,
Being possesse'd th' Compters Territory,
Whilst money last they'll please thee with perswasion:
But being spent, they change their first euasion
To their owne shapes, when they your wealth haue wonne,
With you they'll deale, as they with me haue done.*

Thus leauing the Masterside, I kindly entreat your patience to walke ouer to the Knights ward with mee, and partake of the fruits of my new society, & strange vnexpected entertainment.

CHAP. III.

1. Mine entrance into the Knights ward. 2. My rough vsage. 3. The description of a commanding officer in that place. 4. My strange acquaintance with a company of Gentle-men, being all prisoners. 5. The occasion of this ensuing disconery. 6. And lastly, the entrance into this disconery.

INo sooner came downe the Masterside staires, but a key was turned for me, so vp went I into the Knights side, but did goe as heauily (howsoeuer I layd a braue and guilded out side vpon my heauy and leaden discontent) as those poore prisoners that goe vp New-gate staires, after they come condemned from the Sessions house. At first I went through a long darke gallery, that represented the place it was most like, *Hell*; for it was as gloomy, as if the Rauen-like wings of night did continually couer it, hauing past through this *Ægyptian fogge*, on a sudden I stept into the Hall, where men were walking vp and downe, as thicke as Marchants doe on the Exchange betweene twelue and one in the afternoone, being entered, I began to play my part as well as I could, and thus to salute them.

Gentle-men, God saue you all, may that you all long for happen vnto you all, *Liberty*; courteously they returned the like to me, and badde me welcome holding me in discourse concerning my forsaking the Masterside, but as I was making an Apologeticall defence for my

my pouerty, and a true narration of their cruelty that turned me ouer, I was interrupted by a fellow, whose character I thus will describe vnto you. Hee was a tall rawboned thing, and might very well at Mid-summer-time, haue serued in steed of a May-pole, had he been in a coutry town, for all the hob-nail-wearers in the parish to dance about; his face was much like a withered warden, and wrinckled all ouer like an *Apple-lohn* of a yeere olde, he was chapfalne, and lookt like the picture of *Famine*, the haire that grew vpon his mussell was so blacke, that I thought he had a couple of blacke puddings round about his chaps, besides all these exterior endowments, his internall vertues were as many, for he was as proud as a new made Constable, and would mooue his hat no more to any man that came within his iurisdiction, then a Lawyer will to a poore client, though he stand two houres together bare before him, this compound of ill qualities (I say) very roughly came to me, when Heauen knows I never dream't of such a mischeefe, and thus accosted me.

Sir are you a Prisoner? yea sir, said I, Fortune and the world haue beene my heavy aduersaries, who conspiring together, haue concluded that I must lie heere while the Diuine prouidence doth break the Adamantine bond of my dull and Saturnine mishaps. But sir, sayd he, haue you any money? If I haue none (sayd I) make no doubt but my supplies will come in to morrow, and then what is fit to be done, I will see satisfied: nay (said he) I must not be procrastinated, prorogued or demurred withall, I must haue a Garnish of you, a parcell of eightene pence, I will not spare you if you were my father; I beleued him, therefore gaue him faire words, desiring him to bee calmer, and the next money that I was blest withall, hee should participate of, at this answer hee beganne to looke as scruily on me, as a whore on a constable, a begger on a beadle or

whipping post, as a cheater on a Iustice ; and began to rent out three or foure three-pild, huge Basilisco oaths, that would haue torne a Ro-ling-boyes eares in a thousand shatters, telling mee, that the quality of my vsage should bee according to the quantity of my money: which I found true, for when it drew neere bed time, he brought me to a priuy lodging (or indeede a lodging neighbouring nigh the Priuy) for the chamber stinkes worse all the yeere long, then a lake-farmers clothes doth at twelue a clocke at night. But dayes rosiate finger had no sooner boared out the eyes of night, but I got vp, and beganne in a solitary and sadde manner to mourne and pittie my selfe, being more amazed then those that dreamed they saw hell, and had felt the tortures thereof, or those that drunke of *Circes* cups, and felt themselves turning monsters. Being thus drencht in a boundlesse sea of melancholly, for the space of a fortnight or three weekes together, I resolved to walke into the yard, to see if I could espie any of my friends that were in the Master-side, purposing to spend the day away in discourse, but I walkt there an houre or more, and saw none but such as were as melancholly as my selfe, so I determined to walke vp againe, but by chance I turned my head aside, and saw the cellar doore standing open, gaping to swallow any prisoner that drew neere, so hoping to finde some of mine o'd acquaintance there, I stept downe, and being no sooner descended, but I beheld a company of Gentlemen, all prisoners, sitting at a square table, making themselves exceeding merry with the musike the cans made, being as brimfull of beere, at mine heart was of melancholly, or theirs of mirth, some hauing the pipes neuer out of their mouthes, who puffed more smoake out of their noses, then euer came out of Cole-harbar chimneyes, or any brew-house in *Saint Katherines* : some againe singing as merrily, as if they had been as free as the mountaine

tainaire, I seeing them in these Bacchanall rages, faine would haue slipt by them, but one that sat at the vpper end of the table (hauing a Can in one hand and a pipe in the other) desired me to approach and bee one of their society (protesting more kindnesse to me, then a Dutch-man will when he is drunke) so proffered mee halfe a can ; I tolde him I could not pledge him so much, but I would drinke a whole one in conceit ; why quoth he, not drinke, Foot, man it is the soule of good fellowship, the marrow of a Poets *Minerva*, it makes a man as valiant as *Hercules*, though he were as cowardly as a French man when he is sober, besides I will prooue it necessary for a man to be drunke sometimes, for suppose you should kill a man when you are drunke, you should neuer be hanged for it while you are sober, therefore I thinke it is good for you to be alwaies drunk, againe, it is the kindest companion and friendliest sin of all the seauen, for whereas most sinnes leaue a man (by some accident) before his death, this trusty Trojan Drunkennesse will neuer forsake him while the breath is out of his body ; and lastly, a full bowle of sacke or clarret, or a Can of strong beere, will drownd all sorrowes ; indeede sir, sayd I, whether it will drownd all sorrowes or no, I am not greatly experiencet in, but I am sure it will drownd our soules, yet sir, for your kindnesse I will bestow the curtisie of the cellar vpon you, and so I called for halfe a dozen, and dranke a little to them all ; another that was opposite against mee, askt me if I would drink Tobacco, so proffered me the pipe, which I denied, telling him that I would not be conuersant with that Indian whore, that not onely the Lords and Gentry of the Land had committed adultery with, but also euery Tinker, Cobler and Dray-man of the City. Why, said he, it is an excellent purge for the head, true, sayd I, but it is a vilde purge for the purse, and that for mine owne part, I had rather haue a peece of
pudding

pudding of an inch long for mine owne eating, then twenty yards of pudding Tobacco for my drinking, they seeing my fixt and sollid resolution, let me alone to haue mine owne humour as they had theirs; so that we sat exceeding merry without any melancholly fit, and at the last, I began to giue them a touch of my qualitie, but after we began to bee more familiar together, he that first entertained me, whispered me in the eare, and tolde mee, if hee thought I would bee secret, hee would reueale that to me, which should not onely for euer gaine me a neuer-dying memory, but also would be an vnknownen profit to the Common-wealth, I promised him to be as secret as any Surgeon: then hee called me aside from the rest of our company, and tolde me, if I would repaire to him in the morning, he would vnbowell the hugest bulke of villany, that euer was burthensome to the world, that hee would anatomize vice, and lay the vlcers and sores of this corrupted age, so apparant to the sight of this Kingdom, that the most *Ospray* and *Owle-eyed* spectator should not chuse but confesse, there neuer was a more necessary and commodious discouery reuealed. Why sir, sayd I, there is a booke called *Greenes Ghost haunts Cony-catchers*; another called *Legerdmaine*, and *The Blacke Dog of Newgate*, but the most wittiest, elegantest and eloquentest *Peece* (Master *Dekkers*, the true heire of *Apollo* composed) called *The Bell-man of London*, haue already set foorth the vices of the time so viuely, that it is vnpossible the *Anchor* of any other mans braine can sound the sea of a more deepe and dreadfull mischeefe. These indeede, sayd he, haue done (especially the last) most exquisitely, both for their owne reputation, and their countreyes good, but I haue that lockt vp in the closet of my brest, that when it is opened and made apparant to you will amaze you. Therefore I admire that the Fabricke of the earth is not continually shaken with
earth-

earth-quakes, that the Earth it selfe (as shee is a mother to beare all kinde of fruit) doth not ingender all kinde of murthering and killing creatures, as *Harpies*, *Cockatrice*s, *wolves* and *Hyenas* to destroy those that are continually trampling on her teeming wombe; that the aire is not choaked with fogs, and that blacke pitchy mists doth not perpetually masque the face of Heaven, and leaue the world in obscurity, putting vs in minde of our sinnes, a thousand times blacker then that eclipse; and lastly, that the sea is not turnd all to blood to put vs in minde of the cruelty and vnconscionable vsage of one man toward another, for there are vices in this sinne drowned age, that are able to pull the two edged sword of vengeance on our heads, and plucke fire from the forge of heauen, I admire that we haue not leane-faced Famine, meager mortality, pale sicknesse, and grim-faced warre tyrannizing in this Land, as once it did in Ierusalem, in the time of *Titus* and *Vespasian*, when the glorious *Sanctum Sanctorum*, was set on fire; when the fields were filled with slaughtered carkasses, and when the mother for want of food, was driuen to kill her owne child, to quench her owne hunger. Hee would haue proceeded farther in his discourse, but that I entreated him to containe himselfe while the morning, telling him I would rather faile of my liberty, then to meet him to heare this discouery, vpon this resolute we both went to our former seats, and fell to our former familiarity, but on a sudden, the Keepers broke off our mirth, and commanded euery man to his lodging, so not daring to displease their authority, wee payd the shot, in a friendly and kinde manner tooke our leaues one of each other, went vp staires, and euery man to his seuerall ward and lodging. But my braines like the wandring stars; or clocks on Shroue-Tuesdaies were neuer at quier, but all night I lay wondering and musing what discouery this should be, there-

fore I longed more to see the day; then an hungry Courtier will a table groaning vnderneath the waight of well-fill'd dishes: but the Day-starre no sooner began to cherish the world with his all-reuiuing light, but I sprung from mine hard couch, made mee ready, and when the dores were open (by much intreaty) got into the yard, where hauing not walked halfe a dozen turns, but I made my repaire into the Cellar, more a thirst to haue my mindes pallate quencht with his discourse, then my mouth with the best liquor in all the barrells, but hauing called for two Cans of beere, I sent for a quart of sacke to whet the point of his wit, that it might wound vice the deeper, that being come, I sent for my friend who lay in the Hole, who was foorthwith let out (being an olde prisoner) and being come downe, thus I began to salute him.

Ingenious friend, as well come to me as this faire day is to the world; this night hath seemed long, but the burning desire I had to conferre with you, concerning the discouery (you out of your loue promised to reueale) made it more tedious, & if you will but disclose the maine body, let me alone to vnmaske the face, and lay euery member open to the worlds eye. Sir (quoth he) you seeme so compleat in your quality, that I hope you will publish what I shall relate, if you should smother it, I rather would keepe it to my selfe then impart it, but not doubting of your diligence in this matter, I will venture my discourse, and good sir giue a diligent attention. I (as glad to heare as he to speake) tooke vp a roome in a priuate place, and loth to hold my selfe in delayes, first of all, swept cleane the channell of mine attention with a cup of sacke, drunke an health to him, and the liberty of all poore distressed prisoners that lay labouring vnderneath the burthen of misery, which being pledg'd in this (or such a) manner, he began.

As the maine Ocean is nourished by the armes and
riuers

riuers, that pay howerly tribute to him with the filuer
 streames, and especially out of our Land, by swan-blest
Thames, swift *Senerne*, dangerous passing *Humber*, and
 smooth-faced *Trent*, so is this turbulent sea the *Compter*
 by these foure currents heereafter mentioned: First,
Vnconscionable Citizens: Secondly, *Politiike Prodigals*, alias
Ingeneers: Thirdly, *Catch-poles*: Fourthly and lastly,
Constables and their adherents, as the *Beadle* and his
Watch-men, all whose abuses I will strip naked, and ierke
 with my tongue, till I fetch blood; the first of whom
 haue beene the onely cause of my detaining in prison
 this foure yeeres, yet let no man thinke that I speake a-
 gainst all Citizeu: No, as I hope for eternall happi-
 nesse, I reuerence that Worshipfull, ancient, and fame-
 worthy order, I meane such as maintaine themselves
 and their families, I touch not those that care not who
 looke and pry into their consciences, because their dea-
 lings haue beene so square and honest: but such as en-
 rich themselves by fraud, deceipt and sinister meanes,
 working vpon the infirmity of youth, and greene-wit-
 ted Gallants, to increase their owne store, caring not
 how much they decrease other mens estates: such there
 are in the most flourishing and religious Common-
 wealths in the world; In the most famous vniuersities
 in Christendome there are some dunces resident.
 that not onely disgrace themselves, but also their fel-
 low-students; It is impossible, but that in the most ver-
 tuous Court there will be some Parasites, so in the most
 goodly & glorious city vnder Heauens Canopy there
 are some aspes lurking, that sting the reputation of their
 brethren by their poysonous and corrupt dealings, such
 as these I will portray and limme foorth to you, and
 first of all I will discourse vnto you the extreame abuse
 of *Gain-greedy Citizens*, and in order will touch the *Po-
 litike Prodigals*, alias *Ingeneers*, and (I thinke *Soule-lesse*

Sergeants, and Constables and Beadles : but first of the first.

CHAP. IV.

An unconscionable Citizen, the first current that paves howerly tribute to the Sea the Compter.

Containing 1. The Subtillty of many unconscionable Citizens that intangle young Gentle-men and lay them into bonds. 2. The craft and cunning of their Confederates (Gentle-men-like Brookers) by whose wicked and unchristian like dealing, many elder brothers and brave Gentle-men are undone.

I Have read that *Italian Mountebanckes*, before they speak in their drug-tongue & Fustian language to the auditory of innocent and ignorant people, furnish out the play, where they sing their owne *Encomians*, with viols, painted boxes, and bills of all the famous cures they pretend to haue done in many forraigne parts of Christendome, which base and vsuall iugglings are onely to enrich themselves, and defraud the generall rout that flocke about them. Many *Mountebanke-Citizens* haue we in this most sumptuous (but most subtil and sinnefull) City of *London*, that when they would rauish the minde, and take the intuitive sence of many profuse Prodigals, and melting Heires with their *Syren-like* seducings lay open their wares, as fatten, veluets, gold and liluer lace, or any other braided commodities (or rather indeede discommodities) which though they shew rich, yet are out of fashion or not saleable, these are springes to catch young Countrey Woodcockes, or our City *Dottrels*, that had rather bee out of the world then out of the fashion, who will bee braue for the present time, though their gallantry cost them all their future fortunes, who with more feruency and.

and protestation wooe the Citizen for his trash and trumpety, then many decayed Knights will rich wid-
dowes to inherit their possessions; but our tradesman
perceiuing their forwardnesse and follies, playes the
rope-maker and will bee extreme backward, and will
not be brought to trust them with any of his *Bartholo-*
mew faire-stuffe vpon any condition; bonds hee refu-
seth, recognizances he disdaineth, iudgements hee will
not heare off, statutes he scorneth, & tels them in a *Pu-*
ritanicall fashion, that he had rather trust a Gentle-man
on his word, then his bond or oath. For (saith he) they
that will not haue a care to keepe their words, will not
sticke, so haue so large a conscience as to breake their
day, and slight the payment of their bonds, againe, he
tels them the danger he is in of leeing of his debt: for
(saith hee) when the bonds come to be due, and pay-
day at hand, may not they straight flie ouer into the
Low-countryes, or take *Sanctuary* in *Milford lane*; *Duke*
Humphreyes *Ordinary*, or get a *Protection Royall* from the
King, and so defraud me of my debt, and many such
collops as these haue beene cut from the body of mine
estate since I haue beene a Tradesman. Therefore good
Gentle-men (saith he) I cannot dare trust any longer,
for my kindnesse hath bred mine owne calamity, then
set vp your resolutions and trouble me no more, for I
haue giuen you your answer.

Thus are my young nouices stricke to the heart at
the first venny, and dares come no more for feare of a
sharpe a repulse.

Alas, alas, this is but to grinde the blunt appetite of
my commodity taker into a sharper edge, and make
them more greedy of their owne ruines, imitating the
cunning and deceit of pretty, but petulant and close
Curtezans, that are nice when a sicke-brain'd yong
Gallant importunes them vpon any kindnesse, onely
to make him more fierce vpon his owne confusion,

holding him off, like a Fencer, at distance a moneth or two, because he shall come v^p the roundlier to her purpose: but to the matter.

But some or one of my young Gallants that neuer giues ouer plodding with himselfe how hee might get into the bookes of some *Gold-smith, Habberdasher, Silk-man, Woollen or Linnen-draper*, hath some Broker or other comming earely in a morning and certifies him, that if it pleased him, he should haue a commodity that lay ready to bee carried away, if hee would enter into bond for it, nominating the same man that gaue him the former repulse. My young heire (whose hart knocks against his ribs for ioy) kindly bids the Broaker well-come, sends for a cup of wine, and drinckes to him with all his heart, resolving to entertaine his proffer vpon any condition, protesting rather then he will let such a blest opportunity slip, will set his hands to more parchment then a whole flocke of sheepe are able to furnish a Scriuener with; but my Broaker (before instructed by the commodity-letter) tels him that though he heard him speake something doubtfull of him, yet if he would be ruled by him, hee would vndertake to make his credit passe as firme as any Farmers or Yeomen in *Kent*, for (saith hee) I am a great friend of this Tradesmans, and make no doubt but may preuaile as much with him as any man in this Towne, especially if you will bee ruled by me, you must not be too importunate, but as scornfull as he is disdainfull, tell him that you are your fathers heire, and that such lands he hath you must inherit, and that the entailement cannot be cut off, though he were neuer so hainous an enemie of yours, besides you must tell him you are about to marry some rich widdow which you know you might win, so that you could but haue a hundred pound or two, to put your selfe in good clothes.

These *spells* charmes my poore Prodigall, so at last he
and

and the *Wedge* (that came as Legate from the *Tyger*) go together, and finde my Citizen busie in his shop; not taking any notice of their comming, but (as to other passingers) at first askes them what they lack, and what they would buy, but boldly they come into the shoppe and after acquaintance taken, the Brooker unfolds the matter, and the occasion of their comming to him, telling him that he came with a friend of his about a commodity, and if hee were a friend, as hee alwaies tooke him to bee, as to condescend to the Gentle mans request, and let him haue an hundred pound: for (saith he) I know his friends are of faire possessions, he is his fathers eldest son, besides on my conscience he would not trouble you at this present, if he were not to marry with a rich widdow, whom he may lose for want of setting forth, and then no doubt when the match is made vp, but he will haue an honest care to pay in your money, with a million of thanks for your kindnesse. Now all the while the Brooker is plbading, mine *Innocent* doth second him, and will rather then goe without his trinkets, binde whatsoeuer the Brooker saith with halfe a score oathes.

The Citizen begins to hearken after this, and protests to my greene gosling, that he would be glad to do any man a pleasure, but that he hath had so many losses already, and that he would bee willing to let him haue an hundred pounds worth of commodities, if so be he thought it would redound to his good, and that hee might bee sure at the sixe moneths end to haue his money paid in, the young Gallant protests, the Brooker warrants it, and at last, though very loath, the Citizen condescends, but how, thus, that if hee could procure as good a man as himselfe to be bound with him, he should haue what ware he could desire, for, saith he, mans life is fraile and brittle, and you may die a fortnight or a weeke hence, for ought that I know, may, to
morrow

morrow, or soone at night, and then where is mine hundred pound, therefore, good Sir, looke out some of your most especiall and indeered friends, and get one of them to be bound with you, and you shall haue the wares at a quarter of an houres warning. The tide now is turn'd, and *Signior Unlorsif* put to his *non-plus*, and at last fals to intreat Master *Broaker* to bee the man, who for two or three daies together, will by no meanes or perswasions bee won to enter into bond with him, except hee must share halfe. Is not this extreame and almost incredible villany? and most vnconscionable dealings, thus to snare in the Gentry of the land, and ruine his fortunes but newly in the spring, knowing that he will rather let him haue three quarters of the *Commodity* then goe without it, because, as many others do, hee would goe gallant, haue money in his purse, and keepe company with fatten and velvet out-fides; and

But suppose the commodities are deliuered, after they haue both sealed the bonds (you must suppose the Heire alwaies to bee the principall) how must these *Hobby-horses*, *Reames of browne paper*, *Jewes-trumps* and *Bables*, *Babies* and *Rattles* be solde, the Gentle-man is ashamed to proffer them to sale himselfe, no, he trusts the other that shares halfe with him, to put them off: who must be hired to sell them; and perhaps when they are all solde out right, will haue to his owne share three quarters of them, are not these dealings worthy of the the sharpest rodde *Iustice* euer did holde in her righteous hands, they are and haue beene soundly lashed, and severely punishd, by that most noble, graue, wise and prouident States-man, the Right Honourable the *Lord high Chancellor of England*, yet for all this there will such false play be acted, though the Sword of Iustice continually were hanging over their heads: but I will returne to our former subiect, let vs now suppose my young Gallant reuelling in a *Tauerne* or *Ordinary*:
you

you may bee sure the Broaker is triumphing, that hee pluckt the feathers of this young gull, and meanes ere long to leaue him as bare of meanes as he is of braines. Now my vsurious Citizen dreames of nothing but his day, which he hopes my nouice will breake, which is no sooner expired, but instantly, by some stratagem or other, gets him within the liberty, then inuites him to supper (by giuing him faire words) either to his owne or some of his neighbours houses, and when they haue almost made an end, instead of a messe of fruit, or a peece of *Banbury* cheese to close vp their stomackes, a Brace (or more) of Sargeants are not farre from his shoulder, and except he presently pay, he must presently to prison. Are these worthy the names of Citizens? no, no, such may be Citizens of *London*, but neuer of *Heauenly Ierusalem*. At this period I began to speake to him, saying: Sir, I protest you haue reuealed a strange and monstrous abuse to the Gentry of this land, if I did not take you to bee (what I thinke you are) an honest man, I should stand in a great doubt, whether your discourse did taste of truth or no: but good Sir proceede. Sir, as I hope for saluation, sayd he, (an oath not for a Christian to dally with) I relate no vntruth, but what is as nigh a kin to truth as I am to misery, for what I haue spoken, I finde by mine owne wofull experience to be true, and what hath beene practised on my selfe by these City-Cormorants, these trickes haue beene put on me, and for which I haue suffered a long imprisonment, and yet they will haue no compassion on mee, but rather see mee starue then releue mee, and either haue my carkasse or their coyne, yet their consciences know, what I had from them was nothing but rotten, base & moth-eaten commodities, an hundred pounds worth, of which (according to their rate) I neuer made fifty of, yet they sicke not to demand an hundred of me, beside the interest and all their charges.

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Againe,

Againe, marke the policy they haue to keep a poore prisoner in fetters of aduersity : if they suppose the prisoner goeth about to sue out an *Audita querela*, soorthwith they either put their debt ouer to some *Alderman*, or else agree with some Officer in the Exchequer, and so put their debt ouer to the king, faining they owe him so much money, knowing that the *Cannery* will not, or cannot allow any thing in such a case as this, to proceed against his Maiessty. This is a speeding trick, and such a one I am now trounc't with, and many besides my selfe.

I haue read when Iewes haue bought a red hair'd boy, at first they will cloath him in silkes and taffaties, rauish him with all delights that can bee thought on, neuer haue musique from his eares or banquets from his taste, and thus vse him vntill such time they know he is plump, fat and fit for their purpose; but when the poore Christian least thinkes of his imminent ruine, he is taken by a brace of slaues, and tied vp by the heels, so by degrees beaten to death with cudgels, hauing *Mummie* made of his braines: Such as these are vnconscionable Citizens, that at first will cloath our young Prodigals in silkes and veluets, golde and siluer lace, inuite him home to dinner, vse him very courteously, but whē his bonds are due, & that he left dreams of his misfortunes, a couple or two of Sargeants are set vpon him, and hurry him to the Compter, where perhaps he shall lie two, three, foure or fide yeere, nay a dozen or twenty yeeres together before hee can get himselfe released, or if hee chance to preuaile so much with his creditors, as to enfranchise him, it must be vpon some vnreasonable, vnconscionable condition, as to giue him fide hundred pound for an hundred at the death of his father. *Vulcan* fell from Heaven into the Ile of *Lemnos*, and by that fall lost the vse of one of his feete, let all such vnconscionable Citizens take heede they fall not

not from the earth to Hell, and lose their soules.

These are the Boares that plow vp whole acres, nay whole fields of Gentlemens lands with their snoutes, these are swine that eate vp whole Orchards, and these are they whose fiery consciences drinke vp whole fish-pooles at a drought, their vsurious dealings make so many *Cornutes* in the City as there are, for when young Gentlemen haue beene beggered by their extortion they haue no other meanes then to fall in with their wiues and seek to them for supply: It is this that makes *Newmarket* heath, and *Reyston*-dounes about Christmas time so full of high-way-men that poore Countie people cannot passe quietly to their Cottages, but some Gentleman will borrow all the mony they haue (only indeed they will make them take their bonds) this makes *Tiburne* and *Wapping* haue so many hangers-on, and this is the cause so many such Citizens sonnes are plagued after their fathers deaths as their fathers when they were liuing haue plagued others, for most commonly some knaue or debosh fellow lurch the fooles their sons as cunningly after their fathers discease as they did others only to make their sonnes Gentlemen, who at last may as miserably die in the Hole for want of sustenance as some of his fathers debtors haue done before him.

Vpon this I began to interrupt him saying, sir in this short time that I haue beene here I haue seen some Creditors bring their Debtors both meat, drinke, and mony when they haue beene sicke, and ill at ease.

Tis true sir said he, I acknowledge it, but did you neuer heare that when a Lion hath got a pretty bleating lambe or kid in his pawes hee will play and tumble vp and downe with them a little while, but you must not thinke it is for any loue hee beares them, but onely to chafe their blood and make them eate more sweete, and tender: Such are these kinde of vnkinde Citizens

that when they haue got young Gentle men into prison will (if the summe be any thing weighty) relieue him with meate, drinke, and mony, (if they see him begin to droope) but do you thinke this is in loue to him? no, if you doe you wander a thousand leagues from a true construction, hee doth it to keepe him alieue that hee may haue his mony if any meanes should fall to him, and that the world may take notice of his charitie, alas, alas this is but a fained holinesse, which is a double iniquity: This kindnesse is but like *Alchemy*, or *Saint Martins rings* that are faire to the eye, and haue a rich outside, but if a man should breake them a sunder, and looke into them, they are nothing but brasse, and copper. The Apples of *Gomorrah* haue glorious rinds but infectious cores.

It is an extreame misery for a Prisoner to be indebted to a rich man, or a very poore man; for the first (most commonly) will haue all or none, for if his debtour chance to die, the losse he may well spare, but if it is his fortune to liue, and pay him it addes to his estate, the other (that is) the poore man will haue no pittie because it may be the debt is all he is worth.

Thus doe many Gentlemen perish vnder the hands of cruell Creditours, nay a father that hath brought vp his childe with care and paine, griefe and heart breaking, and thinkes to leaue him such faire possessions after his decease, that he may liue in his Countrey like a Gentleman (as his auncellors haue done before him) either in his life time doth see his sonne lie rotting in prison, or is not able to shew his face out of his fathers gate, or after his decease, his brothers, sisters, friends and kinsfolkes see his lands extended on, his woods felled down before his face, those legacies and portions he should pay to his brothers and sisters, paid away to satisfie his debts (being base commodities) and so beggers a whole worshipfull Family, who before that
 cursed

curfed time had liued a hundred yeares or more in grace and fauour in his Country. Alas, alas, with that the teares fell from his eyes, and hee cou'd speake no more for weeping, yet I desired him to proceed, but he crau'd my pardon, and told me that he was at the farthest end of that discourse, and thus (quoth he) haue I shewed you the nature, property, and quality of this maine arme that houely paies tribute to the Ocean the Compter, now will I go to the second arme which is concerning Gentlemen-Cheaters.

CHAP. V.

1. *The true nature and quality of many of our moderne Spent-Gallants*
spent-Gallants. 2. Their tricks to fetch in young Heires ^{the second}
to see their hands to bonds. 3. And a true narration ^{current.}
of their visions, and lewd course of life.

HOW can those Tyrants flourish in their kingdoms, when the foundation of their raigne is built on the Sepulchers of the right and lawfull Heire they haue murdered? And how can those men prosper whose raisings are reared vpon other mens ruines? Many such there are in these most sinfull daies who being gulled themselues when they were ignorant-fots by knaues, turne knaues themselues, and study to cheate, defeate, and cosen young Heires. Is not this a strange *Metamorphosis*? It is better to bee a poore foole then a rich Knaue. Many of these vn-luckie, and ominous Starres wagge, and wander perpetually raigning in the *Spheare* of this City, that hunt after young Heires as greedily as the Diuell doth after Vsurers soules when they be vpon their death beds, for

these like Pyrats or Bandites liue onely vpon the spoile.

These Souldiers hauing beene beaten to the world (or indeed beaten by the world) beginne to summon vp their senses, and call their idle braines to a strickt reckoning how to get that vp againe their riot and follies haue spent, and thinking there is no way to recover themselves but by that they haue ruined themselves, cast about them and beginne to fish after this order.

They prepare their lines, provide their baits, make ready their hookes which shall haue such constant and firme barbs, that after they haue stricke a gudgeon in the gills shall bee sure to hold him though they suffer him to play a little in the streame: when they haue all these things in readinesse they seeke into diuers flocks, as the *Temple*, *Inns of Court*, *Citizens-houses*, as wealthy Marchants, and gold Smiths pry into Ordinaries, and inquire if there be any in that place worthy abate, if these faile then they repaire into *Pauls-Church*, to *Play-houses*, *Cockpits*, *Brothells*, and *Tauernes*, and leaue no place vnsearcht, but like the Aire visit all parts rather then they will go without their prey, and if they haue found any that is agreeable to their minds, or that they thinke may easily bee wrought vpon, in this fashion they vse him.

Like his shaddow they will neuer be from his heeles, but dogge him into what place soeuer hee goes, especially if he bee a young country-Gentleman whom his father hath sent vp to the City to see fashions, and rather then he shall go out of towne as raw as he came in they will season him, and giue him a little of the City poudring: They will first seeke what meanes his father doth allow him, then of what nature he is, either merry or melancholly, milde or dogged, and according to the garbe and fashion he is of, beare themselves toward him: He shall not go into a *Tauerne*, *Ordinarie* (or almost

almost any friends house) but they will be as nigh his body as his sinnes are his soule, and by some sinister way, sement, and glue themselves into his familiaritie whatsoeuer it cost them. This being brought to perfection and themselves growne something familiar (as in much company keeping a man shall ioyne himselfe to much society) they neuer will bee from his elbow but seem to be his bosome friend, his masculine sweet heart, and that like *Hypocrates* Twinnes they must liue and die together.

The golden-leaued marigold neuer opens her leaues while the sun doth rise, and neuer closeth her selfe while he doth set; so these politicke Prodigalls, neuer will be stirring while my Heire is rising, and neuer sleepe while they see him inclining that way: because they would be sure to haue him in their sight. But hauing by much industry and sweat apted and fitted him to their humor and purpose, and wrought him to such a soft and waxen temperature (that they may cast him into what mould they list) bring him to their *Rendezuon* (an Ordinary) where this decayed Knight salutes him, that poore Elquire doth embrace him, the other beggerly Gentleman kindly entertaines him, and all their seruants vaile bonnet to him, none vse him discourteously but all most louingly, they will haue him to play-houses, inuite him to a Tauerne to supper, and as yet let him not pay a penny, what company soeuer he comes in: and if hee chance to borrow forty or fifty shillings of them (nay three or foure pound) they will not aske a penny, yet all this while hee runnes but on that vnconscionable score, which they will make him discharge to the last farthing before they leaue him.

This young innocent (scarce hauing sented the Citry aire) all this while thinkes himselfe in a heauen vpon earth, that he is in *Elisium* and sees more delights then the *Turkes* Paradise affords, thinkes himselfe much
graced

graced (as to be so much beholding to them) as to be entertained among Gallants, that were wrapt vp in fatten suites, cloakes lined with veluet, that scorned to weare any other then Beauer hats, and gold bands, rich swords and scarfes, silke stockings and gold fring'd garters, or russet bootes and gilt spurres, and so compleate *cape ape* that he almost dares take his corporall oath the worst of them is worth (at least) a thousand a yeere, when Heauen knowes the best of them all for a month nay sometimes a yeere together haue their pockets worse furnished then Chandelors boxes that haue nothing but two pences, pence, halfpence, and leaden tokens in them, yet he still is confidently perswaded the Country he was borne in yeelds not such a man as the worst he hath associated himselfe with.

Alas, alas, I truly pittie them, and would as truly relieue them if it lay within my poore power, but when youth is in the height and full vigor of their desires, neither wholesome counsell, or lamentable examples can giue them sufficient warning of their future falls. But they hurt themselves not mee. Why sir (said I) this discourse tends not to a young Gentlemans hurt, but (as I suppose) rather to his good.

Sir said he, you as much erre from the true conceiuing of this busines as my young Gentleman from a true course of life. This is but the *Preludium* or Prologue to the play that is to come after, for my Country-nouice being hornied with these sweete and Nectar delights (that these false brethren serue him with) thinks that all the kindnesse he can returne them is not able to giue them a true and due satisfaction, and if at any time these practicioners perceiue my fresh-Gallant to droop or languish, with these (or the like) speeches (which are as wholesome as a Whore in the Dog-daies) will strue to shake off his mellancholly : Why how now my noble spirit, what is it that lies within the reach of
our

our abilities that we can supply you with? Speake, you shall not want it; it may be you mourne because you are not so well accounted as those you keepe Company with, come our Taylor shall furnish you, we will haue you strip of this *Deuonshire-kersie* suite, and put on fatten, you shall cast off this course cloath-cloake, and be furnish't with one lined with veluer, your foure shillings dutch felt shall be conuerted to a three pound Beuer, your woosted stockings and neat leather-shoes to russet boots and guilt spurres: then courage man, is it not better to liue in the City among a braue society of Gallants, then in the Countrey with a heard of gulls? what man is so stupid and blockish as to drinke the running streames when he may quaffe *Greek-wines*? who will feede on course cates when he may hourelly tast of delicates? who will weare poore serg D' bois when he may go in fatten? and who will liue in a smoakie Country-cottage, when he may lead his life in a braue Ordinary in the City? You are your Fathers Heire, therefore lay it on while you may, if it should bee your fortune to bee clapt vp, doe you thinke your friends will see their only sonne and Heire (the sole hopes of their house) perish in a prison? no, therefore play the Lyon and rouse your selfe vp, and be not so Lamblike and still, but freely vnfold your thoughts to vs, and as wee are Gentlemen and your sworne friends wee will indeuour with our vtmost strength and abilitie to redresse you, or in any other fashion to pleasure you.

This draught of poyson (administred to him in a golden boule) swells his heart vp with such hopes that he is ready to burst, he refuseth not their proffer'd kindnesse but takes them as willingly as they trecherously meant them, and thinkes that a rich suite will immortalise him. But yet these cloathes are but like the shirt *Deianira* sent to *Hercules* which being poisoned with a *Centaur's* blood wrought his death: so these rich trap-

pings in short time after either cost foure or five yeeres imprisonment (if his friends are not the more affectionate to him) or pay foure or five hundred pound or more to ransom him out, for after he is thus inuelted it may be he reuells it vp and downe the City with his familiars, drinckes, domineers, and declares in euery company hee comes in how much he is beholding to such Gentlemen, and hauing his braines throughly warmed with wine vowes to doe them any kindnesse that lies in his power, but marke the sequell. At last as a whole Congregation of these Caterpillers (that eate up some of the chiefe fruit that growe in the Garden of this Common-wealth) are carrousing healths to some Strumpet or other, there must enter (hauing his Cue giuen him) a Scriuener with a bond of five or six hundred pound ready made for one of these Gallants my prodigall doth most of all doate on, telling him if he can procure some Gentleman either of present meanes or future hopes to be bound with him hee might instantly vpon the sealing of the bonds haue so much mony he lately spake for laide downe to him; my Politician being in a counterfeit maze, at first begins to fret, fume, and sweare, saying that his credit was neuer before this time so slighted as not vpon his owne bond to be trusted for so small a matter, then he begins to trie his consorts about him desiring them to stand bound with him, they tell him plainly they will not enter into bonds for their brother, but if hee had neede of a hundred or six score pound they would make it vp among them & lend him Pox. of it (saith he) I am to purchase such a Lordship of such a Knight and two or three hundred pound will not serue my turne, for I haue some two thousand pound ready and if I had this full summe the Lordshippe were mine own, which if I should misse I might leese three or foure hundred pound which easily I may get if I were furnished; be-

sides

sides if I could stay while next Terme I should haue a thousand pound paid to mee vpon a bond, and then I could easily cancel this. At this *Simon Sandbox* the Scriuener is about to depart, and *Signior Shift*, chafes, frets, and is ready to teare his haire for grief that he cannot be furnished: At last hee comes to *Corkebraine* my Country-nouice desiring him to stand his friend; and stand bound with him for that summe of money, and that he should stand only for a Cipher, and that hee rather would leese all his Lands (you may belecue him) then preiudice him in the least thing the world might taxe him with. Now my young Gallant (that neuer before this time was lapped vp in Lambskinne, and would rather set his hand to his owne vndoing then displease him) takes it as a kindnesse that he would intreate him to do him such a curtesie, so without any reading ouer the bond (to see how the condition runnes) seales and deliuers it to *Signior Security* the Scriuener, neuer dreaming that he is put principall, or of the after-claps that will fall heavy on him about sixe months after, or that this bond he seald to, was for some base commodities to furnish his supposed friend, or lastly, that it is some old debt, that now hee hath shifted from himselfe and laide on the Nouices-backe, but still holds him as deare to him as his life blood is to his heart, and still they will reuell together when all this while my Cosen neuer lookes into the ensuing danger because he neuer considers of the day or what the penaltie of forfeiting a bond is; so to be short, when the time is expired (that the money should be paid in) the Scriuener and the Cheat plot to arrest him knowing him the best able to pay, and on a sudden, when they haue him within the Citty with the help of halfe a dozen Puttocks belonging to one of the Compters lay their clawes on him, and seldom stay (except he bee able to discharge the debt) while they haue incarcerated him.

Thus is this poore Gentlemans fortunes (by his own kindnes and this villaines policie) vtterly ouerthrowne, who neuer comes at him, sends to him, nay or so much as once thinks on him. Many of these most detestable and dishonest trickes haue I known practised on young Gentlemen newly come to the *Temple*, *Inns of Court*, and other places that now my heart bleeds to think on. Sir, said I, I haue heard much of those that lie in priuiledged places being in debt daring not shew themselues, but I neuer heard they practised such abuses.

Sir, said he, if what I speake tast of vntruth may I neuer inherit eternall happinesse, what good would it doe mee to wrong them and do my selfe no good onely to hold you in a discourse? yet these are not halfe the vices that are daily practised among them, for let a Gentleman come into their companie you shall heare some cursing and damning for mony they haue lost either at cards or dice, others chafing and swearing they haue lost twentie pound when their conscience knowes they haue wonne as much more, others stabbing one another about some triuiall word passing betweene them, so that there will bee such a confused Babylonian language of blasphemy among them that none (but their truchman the Diuell) can interpret it, and when they haue lost that in a quarter of an houre at cards, dice, tables, or bowles they haue borrowed of some raw-freshman (that lately was admitted into their worse then lesuiticall Colledge) what will they doe? but start out some this way and the rest another, some be-take themselues to their geldings, pistols, and a good sword, and not sticke to bidde a Traveller good morrow, and for that curtelie lighten him of his purse because he might ride the easier, and then returne home againe.

Others lie in their beds musing (hauing their Tutor the Deuill not farre from them) where they may finde

out some easie Gull of whom they must borrow some mony for a day or two, but what soever they borrow for one houre is borrowed for one age, for though they binde it with a thousand Dam-meas (that they will repay it againe within the space of a weeke) you may as well neuer bestow lippe-labour to demand your mony for you shall be sure neuer to haue it againe.

Others lie penning bawdy letters to Citizens-wiues, inticing them to let them haue mony or wares, but if they will not be instructed by their diuelish doctrine (as to deceiue their husbands to supply their wants) what will they doe? but raise causelesse scandalis and imputations against them and so contrary to the will of God go about to part man and wife. These are they that care for no body but themselves, nay not themselves, for if they did they would not so often hazard their liues in the field vpon the refusall of some drunken health, or in speaking against some painted, prostituted Curtesan, and he that kills the most men is accounted the brauest man.

These are they that like Owles dares not shew their faces into the Citty in the day time, but as the Dogges of *Egypt* when they come to drinke of the streame of *Nilus* lappe here and there and dare not stay long in one place for feare the *Crocodiles* (that lie lurking within the bankes) should pull them into the current: so these, when they chance to skulke out of their denes to some Tauerne to be merry, dare not stay long there, but straight shift to an other for feare some Sergeants that lay watching about the stalls should fasten on them and pull them into one of the Compters.

These are they that go braue by running in debt and neuer care how to pay so they haue it: I once read a pretty tale of a Popiniay that against the time he should appeare before the Eagle (who had summoned all the birds to come before him) borrowed of euery one of

his acquaintance a feather, the Peacocke lent him one of his plumes brauely shining with variety of cullors, the Parrot lent him one of his greene fethers, the goldfinch one of his yellow, so that as soone as he was drest and had presented himselfe before the Royall and princely Bird, and dismissed, he flew vp and downe the woods so proudly that euery inferiour Bird) as the Titmouse, the Hedgsparrow, and Wren) began to adore him: At last these birds that he had been so much beholding to, came to challenge their fethers of him, and (though very loath) he was constrained to render them back againe, that when he was bare and naked he lookt ten times worse then those poore birds that lately did admire him. Such Popiniayes are these that borrow of euery Citizen to make them shew glorious in the worlds eye, but when the Goldsmiths, Marchants, Silkemen, and Haberdashers come to claime their own and get it, they will seeme ten times more foule then lately they did faire and glorious. These are the instrumentall causes that many fathers disinherit their right Heires (and put in their second sonnes) who at last are forced to marry some whore for want of meanes, or flie into the *Lowcuntries* and for halfe a crowne a weeke serue in some Garrison towne, for if they are caught (being by their meanes runne into debt) they will be clapt into prison, and there lie and rot, where in processe of time (when these cheating Gallants grow old and their trickes faile) may lie themselues and fatten a prison, and end their daies in the Hole, in poverty, famine, and extreame wretchednesse. Thus haue I described to you the nature of the second arme that continually runnes to the maine Ocean the Compter, now will I hast to the third which is

Villanous Sergeants.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Containing 1. The condition of Sergeants. 2. Their nature, and property. 3. A Paradox in praise of them. 4. Their abuses, their trickes and sleights in arresting of men. 5. In what garbe, and fashion they often-times apparell themselves, and lastly their unsufferable extorting from his Maiesties subiects, and their crueltie toward them.

The third current, Mace-mongers.

IN heauen there are many times ingendred Meteors, Exhalations, and fiery Comets: In many Countreies there are many Monsters, as in *Russia* rugged beares, in *Germany* tusked-Boares, in *Clenoma* taile-strong Lyons, in *Ireland* cruell blood-sucking backbitting sixfooted Creepers: but the most rauening and cruell Monsters in our Land are the shoulder-clapping pursebiting mace-bearers. A necessarie euill and plague in the body of an infected City, and a disease that the most of the Gentry is sicke of. For as in the most medicinable phisicke there is most infectious poyson (which else would not bee forcible or haue any vertue) so in the most peacefull, and populous Common-wealth there must be such necessarie instruments or else it would not long continue: these are they that strike with the axe of Law and lustice deeper cuts then they haue authority for, so that sometimes they murder a whole family at a blow, and haue no more mercy when they strikethen a Spanilh-army when they are vpon the execution or slaughter of their enemy. Yet thus much I will say for them when a Gentlemans fortunes begin to be sicke and crasie, most commonly they will apply him with caudles and cordials which only haue
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but this fault they tast some thing too much of the Mace, a spice more familiar in *England* then in the *East-Indies* : for the most base sort of people in the Land are neuer without it in their pockets. But now I thinke on it I will not be inuectiue against them because no subiect plaies his part to the life so well as these do, then what kinde of vocation is more necessarie in a Commonwealth? I hold them very religious men, for they will continually watch and pray, watch a whole day together to catch young Gentlemen, and after they haue clutcht them pray vpon them: They are very valiant men for they will strike the brauest spirit that walkes in the streete, I haue known many Knights run away at the sight of them: they are men of great respect and reuerence, for I haue seene many Gentlemen giue them the wall, and rather then they will iustle with them let them haue the whole streete at their command: They are men of good consciences for they will do nothing without warrant vnlesse it be now and then for their aduantage: They are very louing creatures for I haue seene them come running to a Gentleman and hange about his necke and not leaue him to the death: They are very familiar and as sociable as any whore, for they will be drunke with any man (so it bee not of their owne cost) And lastly, very kinde and affable for they will promise a young Gentleman more curtesie then a Courtier wil a citizen: Why then should we not thinke well of Sergeants? Sir (said I) I am sure you speake this Paradox only to make your selfe (and mee) merry, for on my conscience what you now speak is rather in an ironicall kinde of fashion then serious or true, for if you will haue my opinion of them, they are the excrement that proceeds from the body of a Commonwealth, whose vilde doings haue beene so vsfauoric to mee that (for euer as all the world else beside do) I shall hate them worse then a Butcher doth

Lent

Lent, or a Fishmonger Christmas or Easterweekes, therefore good Sir be not partiall in your proceedings but lash them at the whipping post of Iustice and Equitie, while you fetch as much blood from their ribbes as they haue teares from many poore men and womens eyes.

Faith Sir (said he) indeed to tell you true I am like a kinde mother, that hauing seene her childe doe some wittie vnhappye tricke stands in doubt whether shee shall laugh at him and let him escape, or frowne at him and correct him : so I hauing seene the cleanly and smooth practises of these fellowes know not whether I shall smile at them, and let them escape the scourge of my tongue, or grieve at them and correct their enormities, but howsoeuer I haue so braue and constant a Champion on my side as Truth I will go on though all the Sergeants belonging both to *Poultry* and *Woodstreet* Compter were within earshot of mee, therefore thus I will charge vpon them with a volley shall wound some of their consciences (if it is possible for them to haue any.)

In ancient *Rome* the *Lictors*, or *Sergeants* went alwaies with their staues of Office in their hands, and in such apparell that the whole City knew them, and yet to this day in this forme, and fashion they continue, or cary about them some marke of difference : So in many other Countries they are so markeable that they are no sooner seene then knowne: But here in *England* (where they once went in pike coates and white rodde in their hands as a badge of infamie) they will alter their fashion of habite oftner then a Whore doth her lodging, or a French Count his shirts in summer-time : *Præterea* neuer changed shapes oftner then these fellowes, for sometime they will go accoutred like a scholler, then like a Merchant, sometime like a Councillor, then a Butcher, Porter, or Countrie-gentleman with
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their bootes and ipurres as durty as if they had rid fūe hundred mile through the deepest flowy way that euer was trauelled; but this is (most commonly) when they go to arrest some Farmer or Yeoman of the Country that is either but newly come into his Inne, or going out of towne, and a hundred more such stratagemes haue they in their heads when they are well greated in the hand, or when the arrest is something dangerous. Therefore first of all I will relate the manner they oftentimes arrest a man to make you a little merry, and then proceed to the manner of their vsage of a man after they haue arrested him. A *Norwich* man being exceedingly indebted to certaine *Londoners* (who often laide waite to arrest him) came to the City so priuate that they knew not how to come at him, though sometime they had intelligence where he was; and when (as it was very seldome) the Citizens came to parley with him it was out of a window, but he could by no means be drawne nigh their forces for hee was too subtile for them, and alwaies left word with the seruants in the house where he lay, that none should haue access to him before such time he himselfe had secne them, especially if they were in fatten doublets, cloakes faced with taffatie, and ruffles of a Marchants sett; at last his Creditors being incensed against him (caring not what cost they were at so they might Incounter him) came to the Compter in *Woodstreete* and feed halfe a score Sergeants promising them if they could take him they should haue a Iacobus a piece besides, one of these sending the busines, straight forged a deuice which was in this manner, hee was certified that this *Norwich* man had weeekly some letters come to him out of *Norfolke*, and that the Porter that brought them had free access to him, this Sergeant instantly provided a frocke, a red-cappe, a rope about his shoulders (which would haue become his neeke better) and with letters in his hand

hand directed to the same party, trudges to his lodging being iust on that day the Porter was accustomed to come to him ; knocking at the doore and being demanded his busines told them that he had letters out of *Norfolke* for such a Gentleman , vpon this he was directed vp staires to the Chamber-doore , who no sooner knockt but the Gentleman did start vp from his bed to the Chamber-doore peeping before through the key-hole, and seeing him to be a Porter let him in, as soone as hee was entred hee bidde his worshipspe good morrow, vales his bonnet, and deliuers him a letter that should come from a Gentleman of his acquaintance, but as he was opening of it , what doth my Porter doe but pulls his mace out of his pocket (the Gentleman not dreaming of such a breakfast) and laide on his shoulders, and arrested him, telling him that he was not what he seemed to be (a Porter) but what hee was a Sergeant, and that there was no way with him but either to giue satisfaction to his Creditors , or to prison, therefore make your selfe ready, and along. So he seeing how hee was betraide and arrested went quietly with him to the Compter, and died in execution. As pretty a pranke as this the same Sergeant plaide by an other Gentleman that stood vpon his guard, who hauing his Creditors with him the day before seemed to grow to a composition with him vpon the sealing of certaine bonds, promising to release him while a farther day, telling him that the next day they would bee with him, and bring a Councillor, and a Scriuener : a Councillor to giue them direction for the managing of the busines on both sides, and the Scriuener to make and write what they should determine. The Creditors hauing taken their leaue straight plotted together ouer night how they might arrest the Gentleman in the morning, and hauing inuented the proiect, forth-with went to the Compter and there did see these Sergeants

and halfe a dozen more with them to dispatch this business : the Sergeants being well oyled in the hand with *Aurum potabile* were as hot vpon the exploite as an *Italian* on a wench of fiueteene, and did long to put their deuice in practise, the Sergeant would needes take vpon him to be the Councillor, and his Yeoman the Scriuener; who had attired themselves so quaint that they who had neuer seene them before would haue sworne they had beene the same they counterfeited, for the Sergeant had a Barristers gowne on his backe (that euer after could not choose but infect the true Owner with knauery) a double ruffe about his necke, and his beard cut as close as a stubble field; his Yeoman (that had as villanous a looke as any Scriuener betweene *Charing-crosse* and *Pauls*) had his inkehorne at his girdle, his pen in his eare, and his parchment and waxe in his hand, and away they go with a score more of their Comrades, whom they had appointed not to be farre from them but to come and releue them when they heard a pistoll discharged (which lay in the Gentlemans window ready charged to guard himselfe with) the Citizens led the way, and my Councillor and Scriuener trot after vntill they came to the house, so the folkes seeing there was no body but such as had beene there the day before (except a Councillor and a Scriuener) conducted them vp into the Gentlemans chamber (where were halfe a dozen of his men about him for feare of the worst) so the Gentleman and the creditors began to lay open the matter to the Councillor who desired the Gentleman to dismisse his seruants for halfe an hower, for it was not fit they should heare any of their proceedings; they were so, then the Councillor begins to vtter his opinion, while the Scriuener began to sneake nigh the window, and when hee saw his time, discharged the pistoll, and then instantly arrested him, the other Sergeants hearing the watch-word gi-

uen,

uen, straight ran vp into the chamber with their swords drawen, and layd hold on him, telling him their intent and what they were, so the poore Gentle-man seeing himselfe thus caught (rather then goe to prison) payd the debt, so sent the Sargeants and Citizens away.

Other such dog-trickes as these haue they plaid, as vpon a Marchant, that (either vpon pollicy or pouerty) broke, and hauing made all his goods ready to goe into the Low-Countrie wanted nothing to dispatch, but to mend three or foure dry-fats, which he ment to put his goods in, and gaue order to his Maide, to provide two or three Coopers to mend them, but shee (being brib'd by his Creditors) betrayd her masters purpose to them, so they provided halfe a dozen Sargeants, to goe like Coopers the next morning, to mend this Marchants dry-fats, and were let in to dispatch it, and had direction from the Marchant himselfe how to finish it: but as he was busie about them, instead of hooping the barrells, they hoopt him in their armes, and arrested him, so that before they left him, they made him pay the executions they had to charge him withall, and was glad to giue them a fee beside, that they should lay no more actions on him.

An hundred such stratagems they haue beene fortunate in, and came off without dread or danger, but now I haue related to you the manner of their arresting many men, now will I tell you how they vse many (or most) men they haue arrested. If they perceiue the party whom they haue ceas'd on to be a Country-Gentleman, they will be busie with him to know whether this were the first time he was arrested, if it bee, they haue the better subiect to worke on, and know (as they term it) how to milke them the better. First they will carry him to some Tauerne (but it shall be nigh one of the Compters) where they will call for pottle after pottle, and such meat as the house affords, holding him in de-

layes, while their guts are full, telling him they will do him what pleasure they can for him, and that they only keepe him there, because they would haue his aduersaries come to him, and dispatch him with all expedition, swearing to him, that they were sorry to doe their office vpon him, and that if his creditor had not bene with them, they had rather haue giuen a crowne to another to arrest him, then take a twenty-shilling peece to execute their office. Vpon this, one of them will make as though hee goes to fetch his *Aduersary*, when God knowes, he goes vp and downe *Cheapside*, and other places of the City, enquiring among the Traders-men, whether such a Gentle-man bee indebted to him or no; if he bee, then hee will tell them, if hee will giue him a peece of money hee will vndertake to arrest him, for he by chance had intelligence where hee syp, and when he hath his fees, what will hee doe but goe to the Compter, enter an action, takes his warrant out of the office, and comes to the Tauerne againe, telling him, he hath bene with his *Aduersary*, and that hee could not possible come to him this three or foure hours yet, and that if he would giue them any money, they would stay with him, if not, they must haue him to the Compter, for they had other businesse to dispatch, that they might get five pound by, if he offer them an Angell or a Marke for two or three houres waiting with them, account it nothing, and scorne to stay so long for so small a matter, knowing the poore Gentle-man will rather disburse the value of twenty shillings, then goe to prison, still expecting his *Aduersaries* comming, of whose approach there is no more hope, then of the Kings: little thinking of the villanie they are practizing against him, yet stil he expects his *Aduersary*, but when it begins to bee late they call for something to supper, and according to the lining of the poore mans purse will sauce him, if they see he hath good store of crowns, they

they will counsell him to goe and lie in their house a day or two, telling him it is a thousand to one whether his Aduersary will come or no, for though he promised he would not faile, yet hee seem'd very vnwilling, besides (say they) if you feare any other actions, wee can keepe you so safe in our house, that none of them shall know where to finde you, whereas if you were in prison, they would all come thundering vpon you, so it may be you may be laid vp for two or three winters: These speeches terrifies my poore Gentle man, and still rather then he would goe to prison, would giue all the money in his purse, at last, hauing discharged all the reckoning at the Tauerne, away he goes with them, and lies in some of their houses a day or two, which is enough (for it will cost him at least twenty shillings day and night) and yet the poore man is farther from his liberty, then when he was first arrested, and when these purse-leeches haue sucked him dry, then they bring him to prison.

Why Sir (said I) when I was arrested I neuer saw any such abuses among them, it may be so, said he, then they perceiued you had no money, or that you were too wise to be cheated, for I haue scene diuers Gentle men come into prison (after they haue laine a fortnight or three weekes at some of their houses, at an excessive rate) without either cloake, sword or hat which the Sergeants haue got from them, onely bearing them in hand that they will get them baile.

Againe, if he be a poore simple fellow, as some Seruing-man, or Countrey Tradesman, they will carry him to some blinde Ale-house, and there practize on him, telling him, that if hee goe to prison, it will cost him at first entrance a marke or fourteene shillings, and that he must haue irons put on his legs, as soone as hee comes in, and put into a place where hee shall neither see foot or hand, while he hath discharged the debt, and that

that he would giue them so much money, they ought to haue for arrelting him, and something to drinke besides, they would if it should bee his fortune to go thither speak to the Keepers to vse him kindly. This trick I haue knowen them serue a poore Country fellow, and brought him to prison with neuer a penny in his purse: once they seru'd a friend of mine so, but I think I made them render the money backe againe, and be glad they could berid so quietly of him.

If I should but repeat but halfe their abuses, I should fill a reame of paper, I haue seene them come dragging in a poore man by the heels, that his head hath knockt against the stones for a quarter of a mile together, and so battered and martyred, that a man could scarce know whether he were a man or no. Sometimes when they know a man in feare of arrelting, they will, without warrant from the Creditor, giue him a cast of their office, onely to get some money out of him, and so let him goe againe: sometime when they are feed to arrest a man, they will send the party word to keepe out of their way, hoping to haue a gratitude from him: sometime when they haue arrested a man (if the creditours be not by) will not sticke to take a brace or two of Angels and let him goe, telling his aduersary the next time he meets him, he cannot set eye of him, and whereas a Sargeants fee from the Creditor is no more then one shilling for an arrest, they scorne to step from the gate vnder a Crowne, a Noble or an Angell, and whereas there is a statute that none of them shall take aboue a groat of him that is arrested, they will not sticke to milk him out of all his money, and turne him into prison without either hat, cloake or sword,

They haue other tricks as bad as these, as for example, when they haue arrested any man, either vpon an execution or action, & if any Gentleman or Tradesman, or of what fashion so ere he be, by chance do but iustle them

as they are bringing their prisoner to the Compter, for if they call them by their right names, *Varlets*, they (without warrant or any authority from some Superior power, as Justice or Constable, but by the vertue of their owne office) will carry him to prison, and either lay my Lord Maiors command on him, or clap some heauy action on him, that except he haue good friends or a fat purse to compound with them, he may lie and rot there for all them. * I know a poore man that did but offer to rescue his friend, was clapt vp by them, and could neuer get free from them while hee was worth a tester, and if the Iudge, before whom hee was bail'd, had not beene more pitifull then they were con-scionable, he had beene in prison all his life time.

One *Akinfor*
now dwelling
at High-gate.

If any man they arrest, in his struggling to make an escape from them, chance to hit any of them, either on the legs, face or brest, so that they haue no hurt at all, they will gripe, beat and pinch the poore man so miserably, that hee shall not bee able to lift his arme to his head, and then enter an action of battery against him, which will more vex and disturbe him then all the rest: I my selfe haue beene eye-witnesse of the like, for in the beginning of *August*, 1616. they arrested a poore * Seruing-man, who had an action entered against him by them, because hee offered to make an escape from them, and when he had all his other actions withdrawn he could by no meanes get free from them, they were so vnreasonable in compounding with him, that hee tooke a strong conceit, and the nineteenth of the same month ended his life.

* *John Rogers.*

Thus haue I portrayed foorth in my freshest cullours the abuse and wrongs his Maiesties subiects daily sustaine by these Sargeants, for which they can haue litt'e or no remedy, and as well as I could, waded through the third arme that paies tribute to the *Maine Ocean* the *Compter*. Now will I proceede to the fourth and last.

CHAP. VII.

Containing, 1. *The nature of a Constables office.* 2. *An obiection concerning the abuses his Maiesties subjects suffer by Beadles and Watch-men that understand not the vertue of their office.* 3. *And lastly, an answer in their defence.*

R Eason (the Soule of Law) and Law (the life of a Common-wealth) should shine and be tralucent in those that beare the office of a Constable, for hee being the Kings Deputy for the night, is the King of the night, therefore being so, he should impartially with his staffe which representeth Iustice, beate downe disorder, and defend *Equity, Peace and Innocence*: but there are many Constables in these dayes, that through their owne negligence (not wilfulnesse) doe contrary to the nature of their office, for very often the Beadle and Watch-men in his absence, commit that which the Constable himselve is much blam'd for, who vnder the pretence of seeing good order kept, as I haue heard, are the first that breed disorder: but for mine owne part I neuer was eye-witnesse of any of their misdemeanours, but onely as I haue heard it reported, therefore I dare nor will goe no further then truth doth guide me. For first, I should wrong that worthy office, in relating what I haue no probability for, and secondly my selfe, in making my selfe a dishonell man in print. Why Sir, said I, I haue often heard it reported, that the Beadles and Watch-men are in fee with the Keepers of both the Compters, and that for euery man they commit they receiue a groat, and therefore onely for gaine, will (vp-on any light or slight fault) carry any man that comes in their way to prison, or if any man see them, they will
(if

(if he be neuer so drunke, unruly or disordered) conuay him to his lodging; or otherwise, if hee bee vn furnisht, conuay him to one of the Compters. And to mine owne knowledge I haue knowne a Beadle committed to the Gatehouse for committing a Noblemans seruant (who went vpon speciall busines for the Lord his Master) therefore if he had not first wronged this Gentleman, and secondly the force, and nature of his Office, why should he being an Officer be committed for his misdemeanour? Againe I haue seene many men come into prison (since I came hither) that haue been extreemly hackt and maimed with their halberds: which in (my opinion) they cannot answer, for though they haue authority to commit, they haue none to kill or wound, therefore in my iudgement these abuses are vn sufferable, and onely are vpholden by their Head the Constable.

Sir (said he) you must vnderstand that a Constable is but an Island brooke that paies but small tribute to the Ocean the Compter, he is but *causa accidentalis*, an accidentall cause, and by chance fattens the grosse and vast body of it, for after his watch is set hee is bound by oath to performe his office both for the discharge of his owne conscience, and the good of his Prince, and Countrey, in which duty every good subiect is bound in duty to assist him. For a Constable is the preseruer of peace, the attacher of vice, and the Intelligencer of injuries, and hath as strong and forcible power to commit Offendors in the night as any Iustice of peace hath in the day: nay if any Lord, Knight, or Gentleman of what degree, or fashion soeuer he bee, comming in the night-time through the watch in an unruly fashion is as subiect to his command and authority as the poorest subiect that walkes the streetes: and if hee should not sometimes nay many times clappe vp such personages, they would be thought very slacke in their office and

not worthy of that authoritie, and power the King hath giuen them; for many men though they haue braue outsidés may commit or act as great, or more heinous mi'chiefe then those that are of a poore ranke, for if the Constable should not stand Centinell; how many men would beerob'd in the space of one weeke, nay of one night, which by his industry and care hee preferues. But here it is objected that the Beadle and Watchmen haue for euery man they commit a groat, whether it be true or false I neuer could confidently speake of, if they haue, it is fit that for so many nights as they sit vp for the good of the Commonwealth they should haue something allowed, and who is the fittest to allow it but such as haue offended and they haue beene troubled with the night before: Againe you say, they will commit such as haue no mony to giue them, though it be vpon a sleight occasion, and let such passe though their fault bee neuer so heynous so they will grease them in the fist. This obiection I will thus answer, if this abuse is offered it cannot enter into my minde that the Constable hath any hand in it, for there are many occasions that may call him away after his watch is set, and he that is his Deputy may commit the offence (knowing not what truely belongs to his office or place) and if sometimes they let a Drunkard escape without going to prison, it is a thousand to one but they that conduct him to his lodging will haue the house-keeper, passe his word for his comming forth in the morning to answer what shall bee laid to his charge before the Iustice: and I thinke a tester or a shilling is well bestowed vpon them for such a curtesie: againe if they chance to let any vnruly Gallant passe, it is either vpon his submission to the Constable or his Deputy, or else he must alledge some firme and constant reason what the occasion is of his being so late out of his lodging. And though there are many men hurt in the watch

watch, the fault lies most of all in themselves and not in the Watchmen, for when a company of Gallants come from some Tauerne, or worse place high gon in wine, and will not render an account of their walking at such an vntimely season, but draw their swords and fall to hacking them, therefore they are bound first of all by the Kings lawes to apprehend them, and secondly by the law of nature to defend themselves, and rather offend then to bee offended. Thus haue I answered your obiections desiring to draw to an end, for this is a subiect I haue no firme or sollid ground to worke on, if Constables, Beadles, and Watchmen, are conscious or guilty of these obiections I haue defended, I desire they may amend and correct them and giue no occasion to haue any pen-busie it selfe in describing the abuses; thus haue I set foorth in order the foure armes that pay tribute to the Ocean the Compter, now will I come to the Compter it selfe.

CHAP. VIII.

Containing 1. A resemblance betwene the Sea, and the Compter. 2. With the true nature and conditions of such as liue in it.

NOW I haue crost the armes of this maine Ocean the Compter I will saile in the Ocean it selfe, and well may the Compter hold similitude with the Sea, for as the Sea is oftentimes disturbed with stormes, gusts, and tempests, so is the Compter with continuall stormes of griefe, gusts of sorrow, and tempests of tribulation which are continually beating vpon the head and heart of many a poore Prisoner. The Sea as *Philosophers* hold is rul'd by the Moone and according to

the nature of her foure quarters, she doth ebbe and flow, rise or fall, so is the Compter maintained by the Law and the foure-Tearmes, and according to their nature and property, it is full and empty. The sea hath many fearefull and hideous monsters in it, so hath the Compter an abundance of Sergeants. In the Sea the great ones eate vp the little ones, so in the Compter the lay-lors and Officers feed vpon the poore Prisoners. In the Sea there are many rocks and quicksands, so in the Compter is the booke where many poore men pay their tees, and the Paper house where he hath his discharge: in the Sea there are many shippes cast away by wracks and tempests, so in the Compter are many men by extortion and cruell Creditors: And lastly, as in a storme at sea a braue shippe Royall-well man'd that hath store of skilfull Marriners and a good Pilot may ride out the fury and rage of the tempest when a poore rotten weatherbeaten Pinke destitute of Anchor, sailes, munition, men and Skilfull Pilots, is soone drowned: So in the Compter in the most horred wracke of affliction, a rich man well friended, well monyed (his chiefeest Pilot) may make way through the fearefullest storme of aduersity, and come againe to the Port and Hauen of Liberty, while the poore man destitute of friends and mony is soone cast away in a small brunt and shocke of aduersitie: but now to the matter.

In *Noahs* Arke there were some of all sort of Creatures, so in the Compter some of all kinde of people, for to say the right of it, it is a Commonwealth though very little wealth bee common there. There lies your right-worshipfull poore Knight, your worshipfull beggerly Esquire, your distressed Gentleman, your Mechanicke Tradisman, your prating Pettifogger, and iuggling (lyers I would say) Lawyers, all these like so many beasts in a Wildernesse desire to prey one vpon the
the

the other, for I thinke there are as many sinnes looking through the grates of a Prison as there are walking through the gates of a City: For though we are all Prisoners yet the causes of our restraint are diuers, some are in for debt, some for other more heynous and criminall actions, some there are that are in vpon constraint, and such are they that come in for debt and can no way shunne what they suffer, or haue no meanes to giue satisfaction to their Creditors: Others there are that are voluntary and such are they that come in of purpose, who (if it please themselues) may keepe themselues out, of which I finde foure kinde of people that are good subiects to this Commonwealth the Compter, and they are these, the first your subtile Citizen, the second your riotous Vnthrift, the third your politicke High way-man, and the fourth and last your crafty mechanicke.

The first of these is the firmest legge the body of this Commonwealth doth stand vpon, for after hee hath been a Tradsmen some five or six yeeres or longer, hauing borne vp his head as high as his neighbours, hath had good credit on the Exchange among the Marchants, and continually paying them at the day appointed, may if it please him (hauing kept his word so faithfully with them) haue what goods he pleaseth at halfe a yeere or yeeres day of payment: at last when he finds his best oppottunity, what doth he, but gets five-hundred pounds worth of wares of one marchant, as much more of an other, and so runnes ouer all those he hath had doings with, and when hee hath got the quantity of foure, or five thousand poundsworth of goods into his hands, a moneth or six weekes before the day of payment, my Citizen in priuate sells all these commodities by whole sale for ready mony at the best rate, and hauing all this cash in his purse straight flies into the Countrie among his friends, and lies there per-
haps

haps a summer together for his owne pleasure , and when hee heares of any writs that are out for him returns againe to the Cittie, and lies close making none acquainted with his lodging but some man he knowes will breake before the next quarter , and imploies this partie to go to his Creditors to certifie them of the miserie he is in, and that by trusting young Gentlemen he hath vndone himselfe , desiring them to bee good to him , protesting that they shall haue all that is left among them if they will be content to let him walke the streetes quietly to vse some meanes to raise his fortunes once againe : his Creditors perhaps giues his friendes good wordes telling him they will not be rough with him hoping with this baite to catch my citizen abroad and so clappe him vp, which my Bankrupt little cares for, knowing that after he hath laine in prison a yeere or two they will be glad to take a quarter of their debts and let him out, what cares he for Actions, Executions, Iudgements, Statutes, or any other Writs , hee hath enough to keepe himselfe in prison and will make them come to composition with him as hee list himselfe , or they get none at all, so his Creditors at last seeing his resolution so fixt and settled will (though very loath) take one quarter of their debts rather then loose all, and it may bee not halfe of that in mony, but young Gentlemens bonds, and desperate debts that God knowes whether they shall euer recouer one penny: thus doe many Banrupts ly in diuers prisons about this Towne enriching themselues , and by their policie are good for nothing but to defraud his Maiesties subiects, and fatten a loathsome prison , and this is the first of these voluntary Souldiers.

The second of these are such that will compound with a brace of Sergeants to arrest them , and such are many young Gentlemen that want mony to supply some vitious vse or other (knowing they haue kinde friends)

friends) will voluntarily haue an action enter'd against them and be arrested, so perhaps will lye there a day or two while their friends heare of it, who if it bee but a matter of foure or fve pound will not sicke to discharge it, which being no sooner done but straight they go to the party to whom the mony was paide and there giue the Sergeant an Angell, and share the rest among themselves, many trickes of this kinde haue I seen put in practise since I came hither; but one thing I will not forget which was this: One of these fellowes that had vsed this trick three or foure seuerall times, and beene fetcht out by his friends for seuerall summes of mony, did once more put it in practise, which his friends (at last) perceiuing, let him lie there some two or three yeeres together, and the most part of his imprisonment was in the Hole, and if at last he had not got off cleere by his owne industry he might haue beene a Prisoner there while this time for all them. How say you sir was not this a pretty trick? yes faith sir (said I) I would all such voluntary prisoners might be seru'd so, but (good sir) to the third of these voluntaries.

The thirft sort of these are such that hauing beene in prison, and lying in the Hole haue beene released by Legacies, but being freed and feeling the sweetnesse of it, will purposely once a yeere (as about Christmas or Easter, when they know Legacies come in) get some friend of theirs to arrest them for a matter of thirty or forty shillings and then make suite to the Marchants (that yearely come and release prisoners if their debts be not aboue that value) which if they get, they haue so much mony cleere to bee merry with. These base trickes are vsuall though they be not lookt into, or corrected, for it is an extreame wrong first to the party that giues in cheating of him, and secondly in defrauding other poore Prisoners that lie in for due debts.

The fourth and last sort of these are young Gallants that now and then will make a steppe to *Newmarket-beath* or some such place, and after they haue that they long lookt for, come posting to *London*, and if the *hews* and *Cries* come too hotly after them, instantly gets themselues arrested into one of the Compters, and lie there while the matter cooles, for who will looke into such a place for any such Offenders? Thus haue I laide downe in my best methode the nature of these voluntary Prisoners that fatten this Common-wealth the Compter Sir (said I) these reports strike mee into a maseiment: I protest I thought there could not haue beene such villany extant in a Realme much lesse in a prison: But I hope sir you are come to treat of the Keepers, I am sir, said he, and thus began.

CHAP. IX.

Containing 1. A Character of a Laylor. 2. Their true nature and disposition. 3. Their cruelty, and extortion, And 4. and lastly such abuses that haue been discovered, liuely displayed.

DAre you write? Why not? my dore is shut. They that pinch me see not how I pinch them. But, but when your discourse comes out the Keeper will hold you in the faster. Tush my booke must helpe me out. I hope to see *Pauls Churchyard* as soone as it. If I doe not, the worst censure that can passe, will be a Rayler against a laylor. Bold Muse hold on thy pace. If the world is a Body, then I cannot be perswaded but laylors and Keepers of Prisons are the nailes of it, for they scratch exceedingly, and like sicke men posselt with lunacie snatch at any thing: These kinde of fellows

lowes are as nigh a kinne to Sergeants as Brokers are to Vsurers, both of them are inseparable purseleaches, and are men that hauing runne through their trades as they haue their estates, at last are forced to take vpon them this most base, and odious kinde of life, which they no sooner haue obtained but are as proud of it, as a lousie prisoner of a fresh sute, or a beggerly Rimer of tweluepenny dole when hee oweth ninepence for ale. They are men that haue no quality in them but one, and that is to aske mony, and like Lawyers without their fees will doe nothing. They imitate Rauens, Kites and Crewes that feede vpon the corruption, sinking garbige and guts of any carrion lying in the fields, and leauer that part that is most wholesome vntouch't, so these feed vpon the follies and vices of the age, & haue nothing to doe with any thing that is good. If a Gentleman come into their Confines that hath his purse well lined with crownes they will haue no more mercy ouer him then a Dog killer hath ouer a diseased Curre in the plague-time. Which makes me call to mind that *Motto* I haue often scene and read *Homo homini Lupus* man is to man a Wolfe. If a man should trauell into the Wildernesse or some vast desert, and bee deuoured by some Beare, or Boare, or such like sauage Creature, it were but their kinde to doe so being prickt and stung with hunger; But for one man like a Canniball to feed vpon the other, what more monstrous and worse then crueltie is this which euery day is scene in this place. Yet in their crueltie they will vse deliberation and feed vpon a man while he hath mony, and make as dainty of him as a Spaniard will of a piece of beife or mutton, and make many sweete meales of him: Or like some cruell Surgeons that haue a rich man in cure of some dangerous disease, will not at first fend him to purge in another aire, but let him by lingring, and as they call them with their compounding plaisters make him

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DAre you write? Why not? my dore is shut. They that pinch me see not how I pinch them. But, but when your discourse comes out the Keeper will hold you in the faster. Tush my booke must helpe me out. I hope to see *Pauls Churchyard* as soone as it. If I doe not, the worst censure that can passe, will be a Rayler against a laylor. Bold Muse hold on thy pace. If the world is a Body, then I cannot be perswaded but laylors and Keepers of Prisons are the nailes of it, for they scratch exceedingly, and like sicke men posselt with lunacie snatch at any thing: These kinde of fellows

lowes are as nigh a kinne to Sergeants as Brokers are to Vsurers, both of them are inseparable purseleaches, and are men that hauing runne through their trades as they haue their estates, at last are forced to take vpon them this most base, and odious kinde of life, which they no sooner haue obtained but are as proud of it, as a lousie prisoner of a fresh sure, or a beggerly Rimer of tweluepenny dole when hee oweth ninepence for ale. They are men that haue no quality in them but one, and that is to aske mony, and like Lawyers without their fees will doe nothing. They imitate Rauens, Kites and Crewes that feede vpon the corruption, stinking garbige and guts of any carrion lying in the fields, and leaue that part that is most wholesome vntouch't, so these feed vpon the follies and vices of the age, & haue nothing to doe with any thing that is good. If a Gentleman come into their Confines that hath his purse well lined with crownes they will haue no more mercy ouer him then a Dog killer hath ouer a diseased Curre in the plague-time. Which makes me call to mind that *Motto* I haue often seene and read *Homo homini Lupus* man is to man a Wolfe. If a man should trauell into the Wildernesse or some vast desert, and bee deuoured by some Beare, or Boare, or such like sauage Creature, it were but their kinde to doe so being prickt and stung with hunger; But for one man like a Canniball to feed vpon the other, what more monstrous and worse then crueltie is this which euery day is seene in this place. Yet in their crueltie they will vse deliberation and feed vpon a man while he hath mony, and make as dainty of him as a Spaniard will of a piece of beife or mutton, and make many sweete meales of him: Or like some cruell Surgeons that haue a rich man in cure of some dangerous disease, will not at first send him to purge in another aire, but let him by lingring, and as they call them with their compounding plaisters make him

smart while they haue got more money from him, and while they haue drawne his life to the last thread, and thinke there is no more to be got out of him, straight post him to his graue; so laylors when a mans mony is spent turne him into the Hole.

Sir (said I) I haue seene some of their doings since I came hither, and haue admired they should bee so hardened that their hearts cannot bee mollified with the oile of compassion, nor cut with the Diamond of compunction, or that they haue no sense or feeling of their owne inhumanity and hard-heartednesse, nor once thinke that God may one day make them in as wretched a plight as those they thus tyrannize ouer. Sir (said he) you shall seldome see a Butchers-dogge that continually lies in the shambles without a bloody mouth, and those Officers that liue in this place hauing once their finger dipt in the blood-boule of crueltie, seldome or neuer can be reduced to a milder kinde of vsage: Custome is a second nature with them, and because they daily do it they thinke it is as naturall with them as their meate and drinke.

But I will leaue their strickt dealing with old Prisoners while an other time, and come to their vsage and behauiour to new-come Prisoners at their first entrance.

At the first entrance of any man into this Dedalean Labyrinth, after they haue viewed him and know his name, then according to the fashion of his cloaths (but most especially the weight of his purse) they beare themselves towards him, Flies neuer come to painted gallipots for their gay outsidcs, but their sweet insides as suckers, sugars, and other preserues, so these rather respect the purse, then the person; for they had rather know he hath a silver inside then see him to haue a golden outside. If they know hee hath good friends that will not see him want, or that hee hath meanes of his owne

owne correspondent to their expectation, they will fawne and flatter him in euery respect more then a funerall sermon will a dead man; he shall want nothing while he wants not money, euery Officer will haue a cappe and a knee for him, euery time they see him hee shall command all the house be *Dominus fac totum*, what abuse soeuer he offers shall be smothered suffering him to doe any wrong, yet take none, when a poore man for the least offence shall be clapt into irons, and cast into the Hole, and there shall remaine while such time he submits himselfe in all humilitie to Master Keeper.

If they see a young Nouice come in, who liberally and freely will pay all the large fees of the house without much asking, and sometimes grease their perpetuall dry palmes with a tester or a shilling, he shall not only command their hats, but also their hearts, a couert parasite will not be more submisse to his best Patrone then these Compter Spaniells will bee before such profuse prodigalls. But if a Gentleman of a rectified and sollid vnderstanding chance to be arrested, and being demanded the fees and garnish stand vpon interrogatories with them, asking them what warrant they can shew for the taking of such mony (being loath to cast away his mony) they will instantly answere it is a custome. A custome! Oh heauens is custome become Law, and must it because it is vsuall with them be lawfull for them to grinde the faces of his Maiesties subjects, who will not for the most part stand and capitulate with them but rather condescend to them so they may get good vsage of them, and when they are discharged neuer thinke of their abuse, but are glad they haue got from them, and will rather leaue their cruelty to be punished by Gods hand then the Lawes.

I desire to know the reason, why, when a Gentleman comes to the Masterside he must before hee is suffered to come into the dining roome pay twelue pence for

turning the key, which not long since was but a groat, by what authoritie or warrant are they now to take two groats more then there due : nay indeede, why should they haue any at all, because I neuer read in any place in the statutes of England that such fees are due, therefore hauing no warrant from thence, I admire they dare venture to take that which may turne to their vndoing, if any Informer should prosecute this extortion against them.

Againe, suppose a man payes the shilling is demanded of him by the porter, why should hee pay for his bed the first night two shillings (which extortion is diuided betweene the cheefe Keeper and the Chamberlaine his seruant) they can yeeld none other reason but this, that it is a custome: and if they bee hardly put to it, they will say that is the pleasure of the Sheriffes, on my conscience they doe be-lye their Worshipfull Master, for though they are Masters of the House where prisoners are, yet they are not Masters of their purses: besides no man can bee so ignorant and simple, to beleeue that they will deuise lawes of themselves, for which they haue no warrant out of the statutes: besides the statutes of the Compter were wout five yeeres since to hang in the yard, that euery man might see what was due to the house and euery officer, but now they are cut downe and buried in obliuion, that they may demand what they list, which they cannot iustifie, for if they could, they would when they are put to it, stand to the vertue of their authoritie and office, which not long since I saw tryed, which euer since made mee confidently beleeue, that no such large fees (they vsually take) are due to them.

For a Gentle-man (they afterward clapt into the Hole, because hee plainely and boldly tolde them of their abuses) being arrested came into the Masterside, & being demanded his fees and garnish, which hee very well

Prisoners v-
sed worse
then slaves,
whose price
appeareth
written on
their backs.

well had beene acquainted with, because hee often, by his owne confession, had beene a prisoner, tolde them there was none due and none he would pay, for, sayd he, howsoeuer you may fetch ouer young guls for their money, I will not be so soone caught, what I call for, I will make a shift to see discharged, otherwise I determine to pay nothing, and so resolute your selues.

The Chamberlaine (the cheefest officer on that side) began to take the repulse very hainously, and thought he would one way or other be euen with him, making no account that hee should lose his fees by him, earely the next morning before the Gentleman was vp, came into his chamber, where he found him sleeping, and his cloake (the marke he shot at) lying on the table by him, so tooke it vp and went downe staires againe, but when the Gentleman was awake, and began to make himselfe ready, he found his cloake missing, so that hee began to enquire of his chamber-fellowes if they saw it not, but they denied it, at last he had intelligence that the Chamberlaine had got it for his fees, vpon this hee first went and demanded his cloake of him, who refused to deliuer it, vnlesse he would pay him his garnish, for, quoth hee, you haue met with no fooles, no faith, said the Gentleman, I rather think I am come among a crue of cunning knaues, and vnlesse you redeliuer me my cloake againe, I will make some of you appeare so before yours and my betters. And so foorthwith sent his letter by a friend of his to the next Iustice, demanding his warrant for the apprehending of such a fellow, naming of him, that the same night had rob'd him, so layd flat felony to his charge: The Iustice hearing the matter could doe none other, seeing he purposed to sweare against him, and being for the King granted him his warrant for the attaching of the same Chamberlain and to bring him before him to be examined, he seeing how he was seru'd with this warrant, would haue giuen

the

the Gentle-man his cloake againe, which he refused but at last by much perswasion he was intreated to take it againe, if so bee hee might heare no more of the matter, and withall his heart forgaue him all such fees he before demanded of him and was glad he escapt so well. And that the world may know this is no fiction of mine owne inuention that I haue related, I will tell the name of him that did this, who was one M^r Venard (that went by the name of *Englands Ioy*) that afterward died heere in misery, plagued by the Keepers, being more guilty of his death then his cruell aduersaries, for after hee began to tell them of that they were loath to heare of, they thrust him into the Hole, being in winter, where lying without a bedde, hee caught such an extreame cold in his legges, that it was not long before he departed this life.

Now I would know of them, if their fees had beene due, why did they not stand to the maintaining of their due, or if the Sheriffes did appoint such fees to bee taken, why did they not appeale to him, and desire his aide in the matter, and since that time why did they not procure of him that the Articles might bee hung vp by the gate, that all prisoners as soone as they are brought in vpon an arrest or command, may read them and not stand in contention, but paie what the Right Worshipfull Sheriffes and Court of Aldermen thinke fit to bepaide.

23. of his
raigne.

That the extortion of these Iaylors are extreame, looke into the statutes of *Henry the sixt*, where it was appointed by act of Parliament, that a Iaylour should take of any prisoner committed to ward but a groat, in this iniunction there is not set downe any due belonging to the dore-keeper, there is no shilling mentioned for him, no two shillings for the Chamberlaine, no six-pence for the Porter, or large fees for the Booke-keeper, but heere is onely mention made of a groat for the

the Tylor and no more : this is the iniunction after which followes the penaltie, which is this, (mentioned in the same Statute) And if any Tylor shall any waies doe contrarie to this aforesaid ordinance he shall loose to the partie thus endammaged or greiued his treble dammages, and forfeit fortypound at euery time that any of them doe contrary in any point of the same, whereof the Queene shall haue one halfe to be employed onely to the vse of her house, and the partie that will sue the other halfe, only the Warden of the *Fleete* and of the *Queenes-Pallace at Westminster* for the time being shall not be preiudiced by this Ordinance in the dutie of his office. Thus you haue heard the iniunction and penaltie of this Statute which was made in King *Henries* the sixts time, which were in force in Queene *Elizabeths* time, & which now is of vertue and efficacie in our Soueraigne *James* his time, for these Statutes neuer since they were first made in the Honourable house of Parliament were repealed : Therefore I admire they knowing the Statutes wil indanger themselves so much euery day as to infringe this ordinance, by the breaking of which they reape an infinite gaine yearly, for of so many thousands that come into their iurisdickions they let none scape but haue fise times more then this Statute allowes them, nay sometimes tenne times, nay twentie times more then they can answere ; for I haue seene some men pay ten groates for his fees at booke, some ten shillings, some a marke, some twenty shillings, nay I haue noted it they haue not beene ashamed to aske fortie shillings for his fees, besides garnish, and other charges which will amount to the matter of a noble or seuen shillings if hee lie heere but one night, let him go the nighest way to worke he can. Therefore I haue many times wished a Promooter at some of their backes to see their vnconscionable dealing, that hee might serue them out of the *Exchequer* with a *sub pena*

*Carman and
Bud, secundo
of the King
in Michael-
mas Terme.
And How and
Bud, quarto
of the king in
Trinity
Terme.*

for their horrible extortion, and make some of the worst of them (if there can be one worse then another) examples for the rest, for no laylor will stand to triall if he be wise, but will rather confesse it, and plead guilty, which if he do he confesseth his extortion; but if he be so valiant as to stand to a iustification, he hath no warrant to exceede his limitation. Therefore whether he pleades guilty, or stands to his iustification he cannot chuse but shew himselfe an extorter, as on *Carman* that lay in the Compter of the Poultry two or three yeare had like to prou'd one of his Keepers if hee had stood to the triall, but he was glad to compound with him and giue him a piece of mony to let his suite fall, which if many other Prisoners would take example by this fellow, and call their good doings in question, it would be a great ease to many poore mens purses. For what extreame extortion is it when a Gentleman is brought in by the watch for some misdemeanour committed, and staies but while the next morning, that must pay at least an Angell before he be discharged, hee must pay tweluepence for turning the key at the master side dore, two shillings to the Chamberleine, tweluepence for his garnish for wine, ten pence for his dinner, whether he stay or no, and when he comes to be discharged at the Booke it will cost at least three shillings and sixpence more, besides sixpence for the Booke keepers paines, and sixpence for the Porter. But this abuse was once complained on by one that had beene wronged in this nature, and my Lord Major sent word and commanded that no man comming in by the watch should be receiued into the master-side, yet within sixe or seuen weekes after they could not forget their old wont but fell to it againe, imitating the Fox that was commanded by the Lyon for killing many geese and hens to go a pilgrimage for his sinnes, yet he could not choose but cast his eyes on euery flocke of geese he saw grasing on euery

euery greene he travelled through, and at last for all the Lyons command cast off his Pilgrimages weed before he had gone halfe his iourney, and fell to his olde trade againe. But they haue other trickes as badde as these, which are as followeth: when a Gentleman that hath beene long resident in the masterside, and hath paid all their demand there, and charcerh to be turn'd ouer to the Knights-ward for want of meanes, he must be forced to pay all the fees ouer againe, or else they will either pull his cloake from his backe, or his hat from his head, and the Steward of that ward will stand as peremptorily vpon it as if it were confirmed to him by Act of Parliament, or had it vnder all the Priue Councells hands: And if a Gentleman stay there but one night he must pay for his garnish sixteene pence besides a groate for his lodging, and so much for his sheetes, and still he that receiues it, saies, it is a custome, & that it is toward the buying of such things he wants. why if it be so I thinke euery Prisoner is of vnderstanding sufficient to buy these things himselfe, and not to trust his money in other mens hands, and stand to their kindnesse for such things he shall want; but these are onely trickes to get money, for I haue seene them put to their *nonplus*, and dared by Gentlemen that vnderstood their dealings to pull their cloakes from their backes, telling them that there was no such exactions due, at which hot repulse they haue beene as calme as midnight; but if they meete with some raw young fellow that will swallow and digest such wrongs they will triumph ouer him, and not let him passe while they haue made him open his purse and giue them their demand.

When a Gentleman is vpon his discharge, and hath giuen satisfaction for his executions they must haue fees for irons, three halfe-pence in the pound, besides the other fees, so that if a man were in a thousand or

fifteene hundred pound execution, they will if a man is so madde haue so many three-halfe-pence, but I thinke the Keeper of one of the Compters that tooke such vnlawfull fees was forced to pay backe againe what he had receiued with a thousand thanks as soone as hee perceiued he had a *subpoena* was seru'd vpon him out of the *Exchequer*: Thus if some men would but take this order with them, and ierke them with such rods they would learne a better and honester lesson.

*Inpus lupum
nouit, & suum
fur.*

To mine owne knowledge I saw a Promooter that was arrested vsed more kindly and respectiuey then a Gentlemen of five hundred pound a yeere, hee had what in reason he called for in the Celler, and might haue broath and meate out of the Kitchin at any time whensoever hee would call for it: but will any man thinke that this was in loue to him, no it was in feare for not many yeeres since hee had informed against them for extortion, therefore this considered vnlesse they knew themselues guiltie of such faults they did suspect he would sent out, why should they stand so much in feare of him, and if they had tooke nothing but their due, they might haue let him gone like an informing Knaue as he was, and scorne his worst of malice, for Truth is a brasen tower and will retort the shot of malice into their owne faces that shoot them, Vertue is like a bedde of Camomill the more it is trodden on the more it flourisheth, the more she is deprest the more she expresseth her selfe. What a strange thing is it when a man is arrested & puts himselfe to the *knightsward* must pay a groat a night for his lodging, and a groate for euery paire of sheetes hee lies in, what conscience haue they to exact so much when the best bedde in that side is not worth a Seruing-mans yearely wages; but I haue heard their due is but twopence a night if a man lie alone, and a penny a night if he haue a bedfellow, and that in the twopenny-ward where they receiue
fourteene

fourteene pence a weeke their due is but seuenpence, then what excessiue gaines is this in a yeare, when I haue heard it credibly reported that within the circuit of one yeare there is committed and discharged both vpon command & arrest at the least fve thousand Prisoners, what might this amount to besides their fees at the booke and their garnishes, but no more of this, for if any keeper should easdrop vs, and be witnesse of what I relate, I perpetually should belockt vp into the Hole, or neuer haue a good looke of the well-fauouredst of them all. Therefore my pen shall sleep in silence, & reueale no more of their abuses that lie hid frō most mē.

I hope my booke shall meet with a Printer that neuer married Taylours daughter.

Sir, said I, I perceiue you are either loath to proceede in your discourse, or else you grow weary with discourling, therefore I will giue you some expausion & breathing time, & vnfold vnto you what I heard of others since I came in, concerning them, and if in any point I erre in the relation, I desire you to be my guide and put me into the right way, for I am loath to wrong them, though they wrong most men they haue power ouer, but would haue the body of my discourse stand vpon the feet of truth.

I haue heard it reported, when any Legacies come into the house, towards the release of the poore people of the Hole, the Keepers sometimes takes them into their hands, promising those that deliuer them, that they shall be layd foorth toward the discharge of the poore, but contrary to the wil of the Benefactor deceased, relecue not only the poore in the loathsome dungeon of the Hole, to whom it was soly giuen, but help those out with them that lie in the two-penny ward, because they owe them money for their lodging, and so not for any good will to them, helpe them to a Legacie, that they might be payd themselues out of it, or else they might lie there like the rest of their fellowes. Thus they first wrong the charitable Benefactors, that

on their death-beds bequeath their bounty to the poor, and lastly, the poore themselves, in depriving them of that which is due to them, in making them stay, it may be two months or a quarter of a yeere before they can be released, expecting other Legacies, when as halfe a score or more of them may die before they come in. Againe, I haue heard some murmure at their plots, in keeping men in by pollicy that haue store of money, letting them not goe before such time their money is almost spent, and when their Creditors come to heare of them, will not sticke to tell them that they haue money enough in their pockets, & that it was fit they should haue their due before they withdrew their actions: yet when they see his coine begin to wast, will not stand out to perswade their aduersaries to take pity of them, and come to some reasonable composition: for what should they doe with them when they haue no more cash: dealing with them as some dainry Lady will with a Woodcocke, cares not what becomes of the body, when shee hath eaten vp his braines, or as Huntsmen doe with foxes, fling the carcase into some ditch or on some dunghill, after they haue stript his skin ouer his eares. Besides these trickes I haue heard that when a young Gentle-man is arrested, and hath comperent allowance from his friends, as weekely his diet and his lodging discharged, they continually will certifie his friends or his father of the least misdemeanour he shall commit, nay, rather then faile to relate all, will adde more to it, to make it more hainous, so that hee might bee incensed against his childe, and still keepe him in prison, which policy is onely for this cause, that they might still haue so good a guest as hee is, knowing his friends will see such things hee calls for truly discharged.

These things (say they) are common with them, and when a Tradesman is arrested vpon seuerall actions they

they will giue (being feed well) intelligence to their *Adversaries* whether they meane to put in baile or no to them, or what they determine to get their release by, caring not what becoms of the poore man, wife and children, so they themselues gaine but a few pence. Some, say they, will not sticke to take fees of dead men, and scarce let the coffin goe out of their gates, before his friends hath payd his fees, therefore if these reports bee true, it is first most abhominable for them to act, and most lamentable to heare. Therefore, good Sir, let me haue your aduise and opinion in this matter, and truly without any fallacie or equiuocation, whether these things I lately was certified of, are true or no, after a little pausing he began to resolve me in this manner.

Indeede Sir, some of these deuises I haue found practised vpon my selfe, but for some others, that you haue made mention of I will not boldly warrant to bee true, but you haue heard no more reported then I haue heard spoken: but this I can iustifie to be true, as a true token and signe of their woluish disposition and ingluuious appetites, there cannot a dish of meat come into the gates, but they must and will haue a share of it, nay, and thinkethat the poore prisoners are much beholding to them, that they are so much graced, or haue so much fauour as to haue them partake with them: but if any man hating their society will neither giue them entertainment, or inuite them to any peece of meate hee shall bee sure to bee lockt vp all that weeke that Keeper waits, and doe him some villanous mischief whensoever he conueniently can contriue it. Or on the contrary, if any young nouice that hath no execution against him, bee pliant to their humour, they will vse him with as great a respect as any Noble mans heire, if they see him profuse and riotous, they will not leaue vrging him to go abroad with them to take some composition with his creditors, when Heauen knowes, it is

not:

not for any good they purpose to him, but themselves. For they vse him as Anglers doe the fish, giue him a bait, but it is for his bane, so these are kinde, but it is for some benefit they expect from him, for they will neuer goe abroad with any of these vnder two shillings or halfe a crowne, if they stay but an hower with them, besides in what company soeuer they come in, and stay at dinner & supper, either at an Ordinary or Tauerne, or any friends house, they pay not a penny, thus doe they perswade many abroad with them (that else would stay at home, I meane in Prison) first that they might furnish their purses with money, and their bellies with good cheere, and bring them home at night, as bare of money as a sheepe is of wooll that all day long hath bene feeding among bushes and briers.

But suppose this man from whom they haue receiued so much kindnesse, as good diet, money and other fauours, fall into want and distresse, doe you thinke they will releue him, no they will let him lie and break his heart with his owne sighes, wash his couch with his owne teares, grinde his teeth into powder, and make himselfe bread of it to eat, before they will releue or helpe him, or if by chance they doe releue any poore man (as it is very seldome) they will in a Pharesaicall ostentation report it to any friend that comes to visit him.

I haue seene an Embleme, where the picture of *Charity* held in one hand loaves of bread, distributing it to the poore standing round about her, and in the other, a Trumper to report to the world her beneuolence. Such are these laylours, that vpon the least taste of friendship or kindnesse shewed to a man, will bee sure to haue all the people in the house know of it, yet these curtesies come as seldome from them, as virgins out of *Picket-hatch*, or sound horses out of *Smith-field*.

But for one good qualitie they haue ten badde, and what

what iniury or wrong soeuer they doe a man hee must not complaine, a rugged behauiour towards them preuailes not. If a man rush through a quicke-set hedge in hast he cannot chuse but haue his face scratcht, whereas if hee temperately did diuide the bushes with his hands he might go through without any hurt: when a poore man comes nigh a churlish mastiffe he must not spurne at him if he meane to goe quietly by him, but flatter and stroake him on the backe, and spit in his mouth: So must Prisoners if they meane not to bee prickt with a Iaylors thorny disposition must vse him gently, or if he will not bee bitten with his currish and dogged vsage let him giue faire words and sometimes if he be able flinge a soppe or two into his gaping and all-deuouring iawes.

They doe as all the world else, more for money then merit, for I haue seene a fellow come in with scarce a ragge on his backe being some Cheate or Decoy that hath beene preferred to the Master-side, because the Keepers knew they of his trade would fetch him out speedily, and pay all the fees: when on the contrary, I haue knowne a Gentleman of good reputation whose behauiour and outward habiliments shewed his desert, clapt vp into a darke room without any light among halfe a score men, and if there were no spare bedde for him to lie on, let him take vp his lodging on the boards which he must pay for before he and they part. Other mens miseries makes them merry, and the more Prisoners they haue committed the more is their gaine, for I haue often heard them (when my Lord Maiors officers haue brought in Bakers for making their bread an ounce or two too heauy) whisper in their eares telling them they haue had but a few Prisoners that weeke which is an instigation to them, to bring as many as they can possible; besides the Booke keepers, doe not much stand vpon it to giue sometime a pint or a quart

of wine to a Beadle that hee might not forget him the next night following, but wake the watchmen if they should chance to nodde, so by that meanes might loose a night walker.

Their cruelty is as great as their policy, for I haue heard since I haue been Prisoner a poore sicke man, that not halfe an hower before he died cald about midnight for water to quench his thirst, yet none of these hard-hearted Keepers would rise to releiue him, but were deaf to his lamentable and sad complaints: so that the poore soule before day tooke his leaue of the world. But what comes all the durt and drolle to, they thus scratch and scrape together? most commonly to nothing, for what they are getting in three or foure yeere they may loose in an after noone, so that it is as rare to see a rich laylor, as a droue of fat Oxen in Spaine; for sometimes when they go abroad with Prisoners for twelue pence or eightene pence gaine, may loose them before they come in again, & so are forced to compound with their Creditors. And that I may recreate your spirits (too much dull'd I feare with my tedious discourse) I will tell you three or foure pretty trickes, three or foure seuerall Prisoners serued those Keepers that went abroad with them.

A poore man hauing beene two or three Winters in the Hole, and along time frost bitten with calamitie and want, desiring to free himselfe because neither his friends nor his cruell aduersaries would do so much for him, came to a Keeper desiring him to go abroad with him telling him he had a firme hope to make a binall agreement with all his Creditors: for hee was going to a friend of his to receiue so much mony (naming the summe to him) as would release him: and if hee would take the paines to go out with him he would before hee slept one foote out of the gates giue him content: The Keeper that had as excellent a gift in taking money as
any

any leaking boate hath in taking water, vouchsafed to receiue his fees, and (to be short) went abroad with him: the best part of the day they spent in walking vp and downe the City from friend to friend, yet they could not get so much as one sixpenny piece from any: at last to prolong the time, the Prisoner desired the Keeper but to go with him to one friend more, and there hee made no doubt but to speede: well, away they go together, but they found no more mony there then they did at diuers places they had beene at before, so that they were comming home againe as emptie of money as they went out: for the Keeper would not stay a minute longer when he saw there was *non Lariohn* to bee had, so he hastens his Charge to go a little faster that they might be at home betimes, nay faith said the Prisoner seeing you haue been so good as to stay out with me so long, I desire you to doe me that honest office as to go into a Barbers shoppe and stay while I am trim'd which I haue not been this twelue-moneth, and to recompence you for your paines I will giue you your shauing; the Keeper not refusing this curtesie thinking to saue a groate or sixpence in his purse by the bargaine, went with him into the next Barbers shoppe they came to, where the Barber after a finnicall congratulation biddes them welcome, and prouides his chaire and his napkins, his combs, and his Sizers, his balls and his sponges, and falls first about the Prisoners eares: Who being dispatcht gaue him a tesser and went to the window to put on his band, the Keeper instantly vpon his rising beganne to fall into his roome, and being set fell a talking with the Barber about what newes hee heard in the City, but they had not discoursed long, but *Cerberd* stopt his mouth with a washing ball, desiring him to shut his lippes for feare the suddes should come into his mouth, and to close his eyes for hee was trimming him with a stinging ball: the Keeper did so, now in this

time the Prisoner had made himselfe ready, slipt out of doores, went quite away, and was neuer heard of again. Now the Barber had no sooner tooke the basen from the Keepers chinne, and was carrying it to the window but the Keeper admiring hee could not heare his Prisoners tongue walke all this while, opened his eyes (venturing a smarting) to see whether the Prisoner were in the shoppe or no, whom hee no sooner mist, but vp he starts, runnes out of doores bearing the Barber ouer and ouer, that came with his rasor in his hand to shaue him, and ran into the streetes with the Barbers cloathes about his shoulders, with his choppes all white with the froth and suddes that hung about them, so that he looked like a Boare that foamed at mouth, or a well travelling horse, and in this order runnes he madding vp and downe the streete inquiring for his Prisoner, the Barber followes him for his cloathes, and mony for his trimming, while euery man, woman, and childe that met him gaue him way, thinking hee had newly broke out of *Bedlam*; but my Barber at last ouertooke him, laide holde on him, and got his cloaths, and his mony of him before he would let him go: and so my Keeper was forced to turne backe to the Compter without his Prisoner, so that when all his fellowes heard the conceit they almost laught him out of countenance, besides the plague he was put to in compounding with the Prisoners Aduersaries.

But in my conceit the best iest was of a fellow who was committed to the Compter (for getting a Wench with childe) by a Iustice, who sent this prouiso to the Keepers, that they should not permit him to go abroad vntill such time hee had put in sufficient baile to discharge the Parish of the burthen: Now the wench was not yet deliuered but looked euery hower, in the meantime this fellow made continuall suite to go abroad to seeke baile, at last one of the Booke-keepers let him go

to some of his friends hauing for his Keeper one of the Messengers belonging to the house, now the Prisoner being abroad and seeing his time and oportunity, most nimbly and like an Irishfootman betooke himselfe to his heeles, and ran quite away, I cannot say cleane away, for he was in such a fright that a man might haue smelt him a furlong; but to conclude, the Messenger went home to the Compter as like an Aile as he went out, and brought home the sadde tidings which was as welcome to the Booke-keeper as a Prisoner that had neuer a penny in his purse. Well to be short, the Parish complained of the Keepers negligence, who laide the fault on the Messengers head, at last it fortun'd so, that the Wench was brought abedde, but with what in the name of God? by my troth, with two chopping boyes, which the Iustice hearing of, to ease the Parish of such a charge, sent for the Booke-keeper and the Messenger, and made the Booke-keeper keepe one of them, and the Messenger the other, and this was their iust and righteous doome.

Thus with my best Arte and industrie according to my promise I haue compiled in as briebe a method as I could the state of the Compters Commonwealth re- *Compendium,*
 hearing the best and chiefest subjects belonging to it, *into suspensum.*
 as *subtile Citizens*, *politicke Prodigalls*, *villanous Sergeants*, and *officious Constables* and *Beadles* which are the foure maine Pillars that support it: then I discoursed to you of the nature of the place it selfe and the inhabitants, their extortion, and crueltie: I could now relate to you the villany of the Messengers, that are members of the same body, who instead of going to mens friends with letters (which concernes their liberty or reliefe) will sit drinking in some Alehouse and neglect their busines, which it may be is a perpetuall vndoing to the poore man. I could display the abuses of drunken Tappsters that poyson poore Prisoners with their stinking

lower beere, which they sell as deare as if it were as good as euer died any nole in graine: for the most wee haue is as you see, scarce a wine pint for a penny, and they will not suffer vs to send for it out of doores where wee may haue farre better, and better measure, but will breake such bottles our friends send in too for our releife, and wil neither trust vs when we haue no mony, nor suffer vs to send for it where we may be trusted, but serue vs with drinke that the worst laylor among them will scorne to tast of, but when we are all lockt vp into our Wardes will send for better out of doores, and will bee drunke when many a poore soule is so drie that they are readie to choake. I was intreated to haue a ierke at the Paperhouse, which I could not bee wonne to, because I know nothing in their office worthy of displaying, for if I should expresse more then I know. both the wrong and disgrace would redound to my selfe, therefore if there be any corruption or double dealing among them I will leaue it to their owne consciences. And thus will I leaue of this discourse, desiring you if you meane to put these obseruations in print I haue deliuered, not to nominate me, or reueale from whom you haue had this discouery.

Sir (said I) I will be as close as an *Aldermans* doore at dinnertime, yet good Sir let it not seeme tedious or troublesome to you, to acquaint mee with one secret more, and I shall rest your friend in the highest degree of loue and affection, which is that you (though concisely) would expresse to me the nature of the Hole, what place it is, and what gouernment they haue there, for I haue heard much of the authority among themselves. At this hee beganne to smile, telling mee hee was one of the chiefe in that place, and if it should be knowne that hee reuealed any of their secrets, hee should not onely haue a fine put vpon his head, but also should be put out of share. I seeing his backward-
 nesse

messe drunke a cuppe of sacke to him, and at last
(though very loath) hee beganne to mee once more
as followeth.

CHAP. X.

*Containing 1. The miserie of such as liue in the Hole.
2. A resemblance betweene Ierusalem and it. 3. An
answer to certaine objections. 4. A resemblance between
the Hole, and a well govern'd Citty. 5. The authoritie
of the Steward and the twelue oldest Prisoners. 6. Their
manner of sitting in counsell, And lastly their Iustice,
Law, and Equitie.*

HE that would see the strange miracles of God, let
him take some long voiage to sea, and hee that
would see the miseries of man let him come into this
place the Hole, that stinkes many men to death, and is
to all that liue in it, as the Dog-daies are to the world, a
causer of diseases, except a few whom I haue seene so
flout and tough (stinkeprooffe, nay plagueprooffe I
thinke) that no infection could pierce their hearts.
Ierusalem when it was sackt had not more calamities
feeding vpon her heart then this place, and I thinke it
was the true *Idea* and shaddow of this loathsome Dan-
geon we liue in, for as there was pinching famine in *Ie-
rusalem*, so in this place there are many men that for
want of sustenance vtterly perish. In *Ierusal m* there
was sicknesse, so in this place a man shall not looke a-
bout him but some poore soule or other lies groaning,
and labouring vnder the burthen of some dangerous
disease, the childe weeping ouer his dying Father, the
mother ouer her sicke childe, one friend ouer another,
who can no sooner rise from him, but hee is ready to
stumble

And fighting
against vs in
our owne
clothes.

stumble ouer an other in as miserable a plight as him
he but newly tooke his leaue of, so that if a man come
thither he at first will thinke himselfe in some Church-
yard that hath beene fatned with some great plague,
for they lie together like so many graues. In *Ierusalem*
the warres ruined millions of soules, so in this place
the continuall warre that hard hearted Creditors make
against the liues of their poore debtors destroy many
wretched and most miserable Creatures: and as in *Ie-
rusalem* a mother was forced through hunger to eate
her owne childe to saue her owne life, so in this place
one man is ready to prey vpon the other, so that they
walke vp and downe like so many Ghosts for want of
food to relieue them. Lastly in *Ierusalem* were intestine
seditions, so here innumerable assaults of our home-
bred friends descended from our owne flesh. But (Sir
said I) I haue heard it reported for truth that there are
many living in that place that go Gentleman-like, haue
money continually in their purses, eate good meate,
liue as merrily as the best of the house, if this be true it
cannot chuse but hinder them from much charity that
else would be sent vnto them, for what neede charita-
ble Benefactors send them meanes when so many of
them go so neate and handsome, for it is not giuen them
to lay on their backs but to put into their bellies, for
in such a place the coursest garments are the best: a-
gaine (they say) there is a certaine company of them
that take what they list themselues of what reliefe soe-
uer comes in, and the rest as the poorest, haue their lea-
uings, so then this is objected to bee one of the chiefe
causes that there is such continuall sicknesse, pouerty,
and famine there: And lastly, that what meanes or
money soeuer comes in to them, in the space of an
hower after will either in wine, beere, or Tobacco
make themselues drunke for the present time, which is
the cause they fast a weeke after, therefore good sir re-
solue

solue me these doubts, and I shall cease to trouble you any more: He instantly condescended and thus began to answer me.

Sir (said he) it is granted that there be some in this place that go decent and handsome, but you must not be perswaded that they get it from such charities as are sent into them, their owne indeauours and labours procures it them, and it may be some of them as they haue liued like Gentlemen abroad, so they would bee glad to shew themselves still though they be in prison: Besides, their friends sometimes furnish them with such necessaries as are fit to keepe them cleane, and handsome. Againe, whereas you say that there are some of them haue what they list, and leaue what they dislike to the poore, is not to be credited, for there is nothing that comes in but the youngest hath as great a share as the eldest (I as Master Steward himselfe) therefore whosoever informed you of this, spake it out of enuie towards vs, yet wee confesse at *Easter*, or *Christmas* when any good Legacie comes in, it is fittest that those Prisoners that haue bene of five or sixe yeeres standing should haue the profit of it before such as haue bene there but two or three moneths, and this breeds a mutiny many times among them, because the youngest hath not that priuiledge the eldest ought to haue. And lastly, whereas you alledge how riotous they liue there when they haue money, may be very well denied: for they haue no money deliuered into their hands, but into the Stewards disposing, who carefully provides them such necessaries as they want, onely at *Christmas* and *Easter* or such times when the liberality of the Cittie is more ample then at any other time of the yeere else, they (though vnwillingly) may fall into some error being kept from a full diet so long time as many of them are. And now Sir I hope I haue cleared your doubts, therefore now I will proceede to the

the government of the place.

This little Hole is as a little Citty in a Commonwealth, for as in a Citty there are all kinde of Officers trades and vocations, so there is in this place, as we may make a pretty resemblance betweene them. In steede of a Lord Maior we haue a Master Steward to ouer-see and correct all such misdemeanours as shall arise, hee is a very vpright man in his dealings, though he stoope in his body, but the weight of the office he beares is the cause he bends, which is a great signe of humilitie. And as the Citty hath twelue Companies that exceede all the rest for authoritie, antiquitie, and riches; so hath this place twelue old Prisoners that helpe the Steward in his proceedings, who by the generall voice of the house rule and beare sway ouer all the rest; and heere as in a Citty is Diuine seruice said every euening, and morning; heere as in a Citty is a commanding Constable, that vpon any misdemeanours offered by any man either to the Steward, or the Twelue shall bee brauely mounted and haue ten pounds with a purse, that the print of their iustice shall sticke vpon his buttocks foure and twenty howers after. And lastly as in a Citty there is all kindes of Trades, so is there heere, for heere you shall see a Cobler sitting mending olde shoues, and singing as merrily as if hee were vnder a stall abroad; not farre from him you shall see a Taylor sit crosse-legged (like a Witch) on his cushion, threatening the ruine of our fellow Prisoners the Egyptian vermine: In another place you may behold a Sadler empannelling all his wits together how to patch this Scotchpadde handsomely, or mend the olde Gentlewomans Crooper that was almost burst in pieces: You may haue a Phisition here that for a pottle of sack will vndertake to giue you as good a medicine for melancholly as any Doctour will for five pound, and make you purge vpward and downeward as well as if you had

had taken downe into your guts all the dagges in *York-
bury*. Besides if you desire to bee remoued before a
Iudge you shall haue a Tinker-like Attourney not farre
distant from you, that in stopping vp one Hole in a bro-
ken cause will make twenty before he hath made an
end, and at last will leave you in prison as bare of mo-
ney as he himselfe is of honesty: Heere is your Chole-
ricke Cooke that will dresse our meate when wee can
get any as well as any greasie Scullion in *Fleetlane* or
Pyecorner. And twentie more then these there are,
which for breuitie sake I will leaue out, because I would
discourse vnto you the maiestie and state of these Offi-
cers, when euery Saterday at night they sit in counsell
about their affaires, and thus it is.

About the time that *Bambell* summons the roast and
Butter Eaters to shut vp their shoppes, the Councell
beginne to stocke together, and then the youngest man
of the Twelve provides a broome and makes the little
cockelost as cleane as any Citizens wines chamber in
the Towne, then spreads a greene carper on the board
not much bigger then a Horses saddle-cloth iust be-
fore the place the Steward sits in, and then takes three
or foure stoopes in his hands and trudges downe to the
Cellar, calling for the best liquor, telling *Franch* the
Tapher that it is for Master Steward and the rest of his
brethren, who giues them of the best because they are
his best Customers: when he hath his full load of drink
I meane his armes and not his head full, away he goes
to the Councell-chamber not forgetting to carry with
him halfe a dozen papers of Tobacco: Having ascen-
ded the Ladder in a most comely order hee places the
Canns on the Table, and fills halfe a score pipes of To-
bacco, thus hauing all things in readinesse he requests
the Steward and the rest of the Twelve to come vp,
who being ascended beginne to sucke out the braines
of the barrells to adde to their owne, and light the

pipes and let them go merrily round. The reason that they drinke so much before they determine of any thing, is this, that they may the easier cast vp their reckonings; and why they drinke so much Tobacco, is, that if any man be brought before them for any abuse committed, they might smoake him soundly. When they haue deuoured all their drinke, and Trinidado, they sift and boult out what expences they haue beene at that weeke, what pepper, salt, vineger, faggots, and candles they haue spent, how many dozen of bread, sheepes: gathers, and barrells of foureshillings beere they haue had brought in that weeke. This businesse of moment dispatched, the youngest of the priue Councell calls vp all such as haue had wrong done them any time that weeke, and preferres their bills of complaint vp to the whole body of the Councell, or else are permitted to relate, but with all modesty and deliberation, the nature of the offence, and so producing their witnesses, shall without all partiality haue the Law passe vpon the Offender, who must either fine for the fault, or if he be not worth so much, will make his posteriors pay for it. If any man be knowne to be a common Drunkard he shall, if he be able, fine for it, or else his punishment shall be to go a dry while he can get mony to quench his thirst, or else must either drink water, or choake. If any man steale any of his fellowes meate if it be knowne he shall fine for it, but if hee be not able, the Twelue will take such order with him that hee gets not a penny loafe three daies after. Whosoever forswears himselfe if hee be able, hee shall fine for it, if hee be not, shall go and be damn'd as long as hee stayer in the house, and neuer haue so much credit as runne one penny on the Tapsters score.

Againe if they chance to fall together by the eares, themselves about any thing they enact, so that they beat the Cains about each others eares, they will not
long

long beare enuie in their hearts , but at the approach
of the other halfe dosen quench that fire of debate,
drinke a health to some of their best Benefactours,
shake hands , be sworne friends , breake vp Councell
for that night, and go to their beddes (if they haue
any.)

Thus haue I beguiled the time, and I feare my selfe,
in relating to you the true nature of the Hole , the mi-
serie of it ; my defence to the slanderous obiections,
and the authoritie and iustice of the Steward and the
Twelue , therefore I will touch one point more and
draw to a conelusion. But as hee was going forward in
his discourse the Bell of the Master-side range to din-
ner, and by this meanes wee were both called vp ; so I
promised him secrecie as hee intreated mee, made an
end of our sacke, put a small token of my loue into his
hand, so he went to his Hole , and I to my Ward, but I
no sooner was entered into my chamber, but with all
expedition I tooke penne, inke , and paper , writing
what I could remember of his discourse , which I haue
made bold to publish to the world , hoping that those
that read it will not thinke a misse of mee for setting it
foorth, for I doubt not but if it be seriously perused, it
will giue true content to them. So remembering my
best loue and seruice to all those that affect me,
and my willing labours, I rest theirs to bee
commanded , and remaine their
poore and then impri-
soned friend

William Fennor.

FINIS.

long been made in their hearts, but as the speech
 of the other hath been greatly their fire of desire
 drink a draught to some of their best friends
 shake hands, the women friends, drink up the
 fourth night, and go to their beds, if they have
 any.
 I have had beggled them, and I have
 intended to you the maintenance of the house
 like of it; my defence, the husband, wife
 and the authority and justice of the sword and the
 Twelve, therefore I will touch one point more and
 draw a conclusion. As as now was going forward in
 his discourse the Bell of the Market was rung
 and by this means we were both called up to
 promised him for as hee intended me, made an
 end of our task, but a small token of my love in his
 hand, he went to his Hole, and I to my Ward, but
 no longer was entered into my chamber, but with all
 expedition I took a penne, ink, and paper, writing
 what I could remember of his discourse, which I have
 made bold to publish to the world, hoping that
 it shall read it will not think a needless matter for
 to be so bold to do so, but it is not so bold as
 will give true content to all. So recommending my
 self to you and service to all, I bid you adieu
 and my willing friends, I bid them adieu
 commanded by
 poor and then
 loved friend

William Fennor.

FWIS

